

EuroCommerce plus seven national retail associations pledge to accelerate climate action for the Race to Zero

Amsterdam, 27 October 2022 – [EuroCommerce](#), the voice for five million retailers, along with national retail associations [ANGED](#) (Spain), [APED](#) (Portugal), [ESEE](#) (Greece) [FCD](#), [France Commerce](#), (France), [POHiD](#) (Poland), and [Vakcentrum](#) (Netherlands) announced today during the [Sustainable Retail Summit](#) they are pledging to become Accelerators for the [Race to Zero](#). These leading retail associations will join the [British Retail Consortium](#) and the [Australian Retail Association](#) to drive climate action and support their member retailers in setting out their plans to help limit global warming to 1.5 degrees by 2030.

[The Race to Zero 2030 Breakthroughs: Retail Campaign](#) is an initiative backed by the United Nations High Level Climate Champions, founded by [Best Buy](#), [H&M Group](#), [Ingka Group \(IKEA\)](#), [Kingfisher plc](#) and [Walmart](#) and hosted by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development ([WBCSD](#)). The global campaign aims to mobilize retail associations to engage their members and catalyse a net zero breakthrough within the retail industry by 2030.

“In joining the campaign, we hope to encourage retailers and wholesalers to set out their plans to achieve necessary carbon reduction targets by 2030 to help limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees. [A recent report by EuroCommerce in partnership with McKinsey](#) shows that retail and wholesale value chains represent 40% of EU emissions, however only 5% of these are in direct control of retailers and wholesalers. Collaboration with supply chain partners and our stakeholders will be key to success in the Race to Zero.” – Christel Delberghe, Director General, EuroCommerce

“With the [COP27 climate conference](#) approaching, it is great to see momentum in the implementation of climate action through the Race to Zero Retail Campaign with [EuroCommerce](#) and national retail associations [ANGED](#), [APED](#), [ESEE](#), [FCD](#), [France Commerce](#), [POHiD](#), and [Vakcentrum](#) all pledging to accelerate the Race to Zero. I encourage all retailers and retail associations to step up climate action and join the Race to Zero.” - Nigel Topping, High-Level Climate Action Champion for COP26 and the UK.

Diane Holdorf, Executive Vice President, World Business Council for Sustainable Development said: “With this groundbreaking announcement, EuroCommerce and the joining member associations will catalyse hundreds of European retailers to take ambitious climate action. The sector increasingly recognizes the financial and operating risks posed by climate change across their supply chains and operations. We invite all retailers to join the UNFCCC’s Race to Zero, with retail associations like EuroCommerce playing a critical role in accelerating the retailing climate transformation.

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Note to editors

About the Race to Zero Breakthroughs 2030: Retail Campaign

The [Race to Zero Breakthroughs: Retail Campaign](#) was founded by retailers Best Buy, H&M Group, Ingka Group (IKEA), Kingfisher plc and Walmart in collaboration with the UN Climate Change [High Level Champions](#) and supported by the [World Business Council for Sustainable Development \(WBCSD\)](#). Through the collaboration, the retailers have pledged their support to accelerate a movement in the retail industry by mobilising retail associations to drive climate action with their members to encourage other retailers to set out their plans to achieve 1.5 degree aligned carbon reduction targets. <https://racetozero.unfccc.int/system/race-to-zero-breakthroughs-retail-campaign/>

About the Race to Zero

Race to Zero is a global campaign rallying non-state actors – including companies, cities, regions, financial and educational institutions – to take rigorous and immediate action to halve global emissions by 2030 and deliver a healthier, fairer, carbon-neutral world in time. [racetozero.unfccc.int](https://www.racetozero.unfccc.int).

About EuroCommerce

EuroCommerce is the principal European organisation representing the retail and wholesale sector. It embraces national associations in 27 countries and 5 million companies, including leading global players and many small businesses. Over a billion times a day, retailers and wholesalers distribute goods and provide an essential service to millions of business and individual customers. The sector generates 1 in 7 jobs, offering a varied career to 26 million Europeans, many of them young people. It also supports millions of further jobs throughout the supply chain, from small local suppliers to international businesses. EuroCommerce is the recognised European social partner for the retail and wholesale sector. <https://www.eurocommerce.eu/>

About the UN Climate Change High Level Champions

At the COP 21 United Nations climate change conference in Paris, governments agreed that mobilizing stronger and more ambitious climate action is urgently required to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. To connect the work of governments with the many voluntary and collaborative actions taken by cities, regions, businesses and investors, nations decided to appoint two high-level champions. <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/actors/meet-the-champions>

About the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The UNFCCC Secretariat (UN Climate Change) is the United Nations entity tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change. The Convention has near universal membership (197 Parties) and is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement. The main aim of the Paris Agreement is to keep the global average temperature rise this century as close as possible to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The UNFCCC is also the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The ultimate objective of all three agreements under the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system, in a time frame which allows ecosystems to adapt naturally and enables sustainable development. <https://unfccc.int/>

About WBCSD

WBCSD is the premier global, CEO-led community of over 200 of the world's leading sustainable businesses working collectively to accelerate the system transformations needed for a net zero, nature positive, and more equitable future.

We do this by engaging executives and sustainability leaders from business and elsewhere to share practical insights on the obstacles and opportunities we currently face in tackling the integrated climate, nature and inequality sustainability challenge; by co-developing “how-to” CEO-guides from these insights; by providing science-based target guidance including standards and protocols; and by

developing tools and platforms to help leading businesses in sustainability drive integrated actions to tackle climate, nature and inequality challenges across sectors and geographical regions.

Our member companies come from all business sectors and all major economies, representing a combined revenue of more than USD \$8.5 trillion and 19 million employees. Our global network of almost 70 national business councils gives our members unparalleled reach across the globe. Since 1995, WBCSD has been uniquely positioned to work with member companies along and across value chains to deliver impactful business solutions to the most challenging sustainability issues.

Together, we are the leading voice of business for sustainability, united by our vision of a world in which 9+ billion people are living well, within planetary boundaries, by mid-century. www.wbcd.org