

## **Statement on Commission announcement regarding AgeCore and Coopernic**

The European Commission [closed](#) today two investigations into European retail alliances - AgeCore and Coopernic - finding no evidence of anticompetitive effects stemming from the joint negotiations. They also confirm that maintaining the capacity of retailers to reduce prices to consumers is a key objective of competition policy.

Christel Delberghe, Director General at EuroCommerce – the European retail and wholesale association - commented: *'We welcome the European Commission's conclusions, recognising that alliances are a key tool for retailers and wholesalers to more effectively negotiate with suppliers to offer lower prices and increased choices, especially in times of high inflation. Alliances play a key role for retailers and wholesalers to source products within the Single Market to the benefit of consumers.'*

The positive role of alliances is also [recognised](#) in the new Commission [guidelines on horizontal cooperation agreements](#).

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**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.