

Press Statement – For immediate release

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ETRC discusses challenging economic environment; Unveils new logo at Annual Business Forum

Resuming for the first time in person since January 2020, the ETRC Business Forum reconvened today in Amsterdam. The event brought together over 130 participants coming from more than 75 ETRC member organisations operating across Travel Retail.

ETRC President Nigel Keal welcomed the participants to the conference which was moderated by ETRC Vice-President Public Relations and Communications Nina Semprecht.

During the day, delegates were greeted by messages from leaders of travel retail operators, suppliers and fellow trade associations who underlined the importance of ETRC as a platform for cooperation to tackle challenges affecting Travel Retail in Europe. Participants further heard a thorough keynote address from Emily Mansfield, Europe Regional Director at newspapers The Economist Intelligence Unit on the economic outlook for Europe and the World.

Stephen Hillam, Managing Director at Pi Insight delivered the much anticipated results of the ETRC Business Performance Index for YTD Jan-Sept 2022, revealing headline performance for value sales at European airports at -19.2% vs. YTD 2019 but +153.1% vs. YTD 2021. However, the recovery in value sales continues to outstrip unit sales and several other key dynamics continue to evolve, with spend per PAX higher than 2019. Individual sub-categories also continues to post a positive contribution to overall market growth whilst showing varying rates of recovery. The data session was completed with the latest consumer trends & behaviour as well as air traffic forecasts presented by Olivier Ponti, Vice-President Insights at ForwardKeys.

The policy roundtable addressed threats and opportunities for Travel Retail including arrivals duty-free shopping, illicit trade, product specific challenges and sustainability, featuring Julie Lassaigne, ETRC Secretary General, John Rimmer, TFWA Managing Director, and Ricardo Oliveira, Senior Counsel for DFWC and ETRC. The day concluded with a fascinating intervention from Dr. Suzie Imber, physicist and astronaut.

The new ETRC logo was also unveiled on this occasion. The engaging design brings a modern twist to the look of the organisation as part of a revamp of its communications. A new website will be launched later in the year to deliver greater value to members.

Nigel Keal, President of ETRC, said: “We are delighted to have been able to host our members in Amsterdam again. ETRC prides itself in delivering annually a Business Forum that is insightful for its members as well as provides great networking opportunities. ETRC continues acting as a platform to support the recovery and future growth for our industry in Europe, especially in those uncertain times.”

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About the European Travel Retail Confederation

The European Travel Retail Confederation (ETRC) is an industry association for the duty free and travel retail industry in Europe, serving the industry and its members to help create the right environment to allow the industry to achieve its potential and protect it when challenges arise.

ETRC is composed of national and regional affiliated trade associations representing over 200 European companies, Tax Free World Association (TFWA) representing 500 brand companies, and direct corporate membership from individual companies working in the duty free and travel retail trade across Europe and beyond. The European Travel Retail Confederation's operations are directed by its Supervisory and Managing Boards and carried out by a full-time secretariat. For more information about the organisation, please see our website – www.etrc.org