

More retailers sign up to agreement in bid to help tackle waste

The European retail sector is pleased to welcome four new signatories to its waste agreement which was first presented on 9 October 2012. The supermarket chains Carrefour, Hofer, Jerónimo Martins and Vomar have recently joined other retailers in their fight against waste, thus demonstrating commerce's commitment towards a sustainable economy.

This brings the total number of signatories to 21 companies and two associations, which include a broad range of retailers¹: both food and non-food, small and large.

The waste agreement is an initiative developed by EuroCommerce and the European Retail Round Table (ERRT), as part of the Retailers' Environmental Action Programme (REAP) to help European consumers reduce their waste streams. Signatories have committed to put in place at least two awareness-raising initiatives on waste reduction on a global and/or national level by June 2014. Food retailers will focus on food waste, while non-food retailers will focus on their main product range, for example, textiles or electronic waste (EEE).

Marion Sollbach, Co-Chair of the Retail Forum² said: *"Waste reduction is one important step towards a more resource-efficient society and sustainable economy. The commerce sector is already addressing waste in its supply chains. The fact is, however, that the majority of waste occurs at consumer level, so we also need to help consumers reduce their waste. Retailers are committed to reducing waste and the waste agreement is one important element in a whole range of initiatives."*

The REAP secretariat will compile the various initiatives undertaken by the signatories and summarise them in a report that will be published and presented at the 2014 REAP annual event.

EuroCommerce and ERRT welcome the new signatories to the waste agreement, reconfirming the commitment by the retail sector to help fight waste.

~ENDS~

For further information, please contact:

EuroCommerce

Marjolein Raes
Director of Advocacy & Communications
Tel: +32 2 737 05 99
raes@eurocommerce.be

European Retail Round Table

Kate McGowan
Policy Manager
Tel: +32 2 286 51 22
kmcgowan@errt.org

Notes to editors:

1. The signatories of the waste agreement include the following companies: Asda, Auchan, Carrefour, Colruyt Group, Delhaize Group, El Corte Ingles, Eroski, Hofer, Ikea, Jerónimo Martins, Kaufland, Lidl, Marks & Spencer Group, Mercadona, Mercator, Metro Group, Rewe Group, Royal Ahold, Sonae, Tesco, Vomar and associations APED and EUROCOOP. The full text of the agreement can be found [here](#).
2. The Retail Forum is a voluntary initiative co-chaired by the European Commission, EuroCommerce and ERRT. For further information, please click [here](#).

About the Retail Forum and the Retailers' Environmental Action Programme

The Retail Forum for Sustainability is a joint initiative by the retail industry and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment. Membership of the Retail Forum is open to all retailers who join the Retailers' Environmental Action Programme (REAP). REAP members commit themselves every year to ambitious and specific environmental targets.

The Retail Forum was set up in 2009 in order to exchange best practices on sustainability in the European retail sector and to identify opportunities and barriers that may develop or hinder the achievement of sustainable production and consumption.

EuroCommerce and the commerce sector

EuroCommerce represents the retail, wholesale and international trade sectors in Europe. Its membership includes commerce federations and companies in 31 European countries.

Commerce plays a unique role in the European economy, acting as the link between manufacturers and the nearly 500 million consumers across Europe over a billion times a day. It is a dynamic and labour-intensive sector, generating 11% of the EU's GDP. One company out of three in Europe is active in the commerce sector. Over 99% of the 6 million companies in commerce are small and medium-sized enterprises. It also includes some of Europe's most successful companies. The sector is a major source of employment creation: 33 million Europeans work in commerce, which is one of the few remaining job-creating activities in Europe. It also supports millions of dependent jobs throughout the supply chain from small local suppliers to international businesses. www.eurocommerce.be

European Retail Round Table (ERRT)

ERRT brings together the CEOs of Europe's leading retail companies who share their collective experience and ideas with policy makers in view of giving Europe's consumers better access to the benefits of the Single Market and to promote delivery of a sustainable consumption model.

Collectively, ERRT members employ more than 2.3 million people in over 40,000 stores. ERRT Members are: Asda Walmart, Auchan Group, C&A, Carrefour Group, Delhaize Group, El Corte Inglés, H&M, ICA, IKEA, Inditex, Jerónimo Martins, Marks & Spencer, Mercadona, Metro Group, Royal Ahold and Tesco. www.ertt.org

