

Press Release

26 March 2025

Press Statement on EU Preparedness Union Strategy

EuroCommerce, representing European retailers and wholesalers, sees the <u>EU Preparedness Union Strategy</u> as a vital step towards enhancing resilience. Our sector's role is to serve both consumers and businesses, ensuring the availability of goods and services even in times of crisis. Access to timely and adequate information is essential for our sector to serve consumers and avoid additional pressure on the functioning of the chain.

Learning from past crises, it is crucial to develop communication plans and contact points, understand in advance of supply chain vulnerabilities and support our business models, including wholesale, whose storage facilities help ensure the continuous flow of goods and contributes to price stability. EuroCommerce stands ready to collaborate with the Commission to develop robust crisis management frameworks and participate in the Social Partners Preparedness Summit this year and the public-private preparedness task force in 2026. Together, we can better prepare in advance for the distribution of goods in times of crisis to secure the interests of EU citizens.

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EuroCommerce is the principal European organisation representing the retail and wholesale sector. It embraces national associations in 28 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 businesses 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.