

European retail and wholesale calls for swift EU-US trade talks

EuroCommerce urges immediate EU-US trade negotiations to address unjustified US tariffs on EU imports. These tariffs fuel inflation and price hikes, adding pressure on European retailers and wholesalers who play a key role in cushioning consumers and business customers from cost increases.

Christel Delberghe, Director General of EuroCommerce, expresses deep concern over unjustified tariffs. They are detrimental to economic growth and consumer welfare. They challenge businesses and consumers, increase costs, disrupt supply chains, and reduce market variety. The impact on retail and wholesale is massive due to the wide range of products they provide (foods, textiles, consumer goods, industrial goods, pharmaceuticals). Higher costs lead to increased prices for all goods, exacerbating inflation. Sudden tariff increases can render trade relationships economically unviable, leading to supply shortages, job losses, and reduced consumer purchasing power.

EuroCommerce calls on EU and US administrations to engage in constructive dialogue. If negotiations fail, the EU has a legal basis to respond to unfair trading practices by third countries. With the anti-coercion instrument, the EU has an extensive toolbox which could help address the situation.

EuroCommerce also urges the European Commission to cooperate closely with other major trading partners and focus on the conclusion of bilateral trade negotiations. We further urge the European Commission and Member States to maintain the integrity of the EU Single Market in response to US tariffs and strengthen Europe's competitiveness.

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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.