

Introduction EuroCommerce

Retail & Wholesale at a glance

1 in 4 companies in the EU



10%
of EU's GDP



29
million jobs



or 1 in 7 of all jobs,
many of them young people.

Our national association members



Our affiliated federations

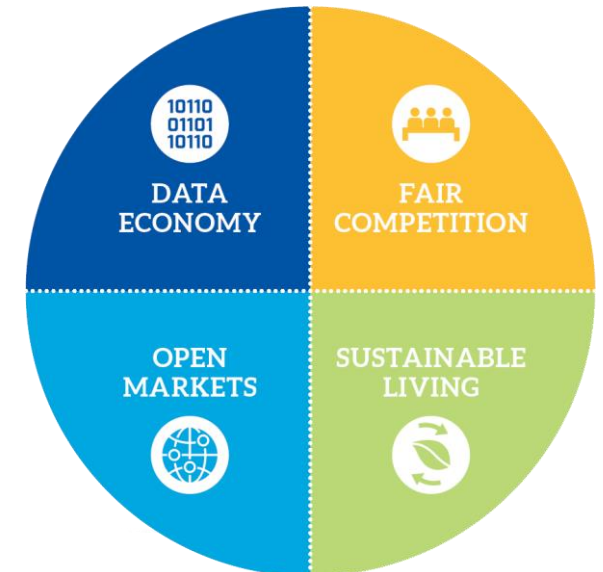


Our company members



We stand for:
Fair, competitive & sustainable retail
and wholesale in Europe.

Key priorities

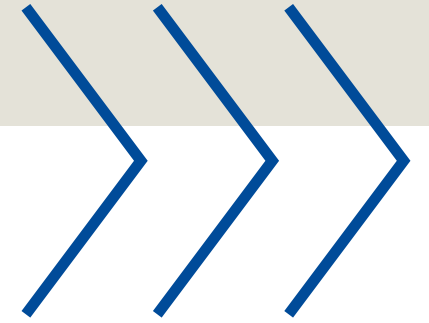


Why notifications matter to retail & wholesale?

PREVENTION

- Especially retailers subject to many services authorisation schemes – high variation between and within Member States
- Retailers and wholesales mainly resell products
- Many retailers are active across borders
- Online makes it even more easy to sell across borders
- Consumer product safety key

Trends we see across the EU



Products

- Member States keep on proposing new product requirements
- Member States intentionally do not notify infringing rules
- Main problems: fragmentation & infringements

Services

- Sector remains highly regulated in comparison to other services sectors (see Art. 41 report)
- Most Member States do not notify (everything)
- Main problems: fragmentation & proportionality

Food for thought



- Business will still comply with non-notified product rules
- Crises, like COVID, show how emergency product rules disrupt supply chains
- Often contested notified draft product rules remain afloat after expiry (extended) standstill
- For services there are so many (local) rules: oversight lacking & Commission has no capacity to initiate procedures

Suggestions for improvement



1. Ensure all relevant product or services laws are notified before they are adopted
2. Should Member States inform Commission about its intentions after standstill period expires?
3. Apply better regulation principles: impact assessment (proportionality), respect EU law, quality legislation, access decision-making process, etc.
4. Clarify what in practice non-notification means for businesses?