

Summary report

Meeting of the High Level Group on Retail Competitiveness

Brussels, 8 July 2015

Mr Pierre DELSAUX, Deputy Director General DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs chaired the meeting.

1. Opening of the meeting

- The Chair welcomed the Members to the last meeting of the High Level Group on Retail Competitiveness (HLG). He thanked the Members for their work that resulted in an excellent report. He particularly thanked the Chairs of the preparatory working groups who had invested significant time and effort in this work.

2. Update on the European Retail Action Plan

- The Commission informed the members on the ongoing work on the implementation of the actions mentioned in the European Retail Action Plan. A summary report is being finalised, which will be available on the DG GROW website.

3. Digital Single Market Strategy

- Commission informed the members on the actions included in the Digital Single Market Strategy (hereinafter "DSM") adopted in May and invited members to participate in the consultations launched or to be launched in the follow-up.
- Members welcomed the adoption of the DSM. The importance of VAT and consumer confidence related issues for the development of e-commerce was highlighted. Members also stressed the need to carefully assess the environmental impact of e-commerce as well as the impact on jobs and working conditions.

4. Report of the High Level Group and follow-up

- Members discussed the draft report of the Group and agreed on some limited changes to be included in the text before final adoption.

- Commission explained that the recommendations of the Group will feed into the ongoing reflection on the Internal Market Strategy (IMS) to be adopted in the autumn as well as future work on retail. It also expressed its interest for a continued dialogue with stakeholders. At this stage, it is however too early to say what format this dialogue will take. Members welcomed the Commission proposal to keep them informed about the IMS.