



FTA  
Foreign Trade Association



# WTO Trade Facilitation: Time for Early Harvest

## JOINT STATEMENT

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Date: 25 September 2012

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**The Conseil québécois du commerce de détail (Canada), EuroCommerce (Europe), the Foreign Trade Association (Europe), the National Retail Association (US) and the Retail Council of Canada urge the WTO and its member states to commit to early harvest and early implementation on Trade Facilitation.**

The simplification and harmonisation of customs procedures worldwide is a vital building block for economic growth and development. Trade Facilitation is the simplest, most regulatory efficient way to recover economic performance and generate wealth creation for the good of all societies, regardless of location or region.

In times of immense challenges, economic operators worldwide are waiting anxiously for negotiators to show leadership and demonstrate the ability of the World Trade Organisation to really deliver.

The undersigned bodies believe the consensus-driven negotiations and the Draft Agreement on Trade Facilitation now have sufficient shape to be concluded and implemented, for the good of all economies, without awaiting the formal conclusion of the Single Undertaking.

We believe early agreement to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement would offer a key and significant boost for the global trading community during these critical economic times and show the WTO has the determination to deliver.

**Conseil québécois du commerce de détail** - Canada

**EuroCommerce** - Europe

**FTA - Foreign Trade Association** - Europe

**NRF - National Retail Federation** - Unites States of America

**RCC – Retail Council of Canada** - Canada

### **Conseil québécois du commerce de détail (CQCD)**

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For 32 years now, the Conseil québécois du commerce de détail (**CQCD**) is proud to represent the retail community of Quebec, and pursues its mission of representing, promoting the sector and defending the interest of its members, to ensure a sound development of the retail sector in Québec.

The government, as well as the media, are listening in to the CQCD because it represents 70% of the retail sector in Québec.

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### **EuroCommerce**

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**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 95% 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: 31 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.

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### **Foreign Trade Association (FTA)**

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The Foreign Trade Association (**FTA**) is the association of European and International commerce that promotes the values of free and sustainable trade. It brings together hundreds of retailers, importers, brand companies, and national associations to improve the political and legal framework for trade in a sustainable way.

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### **National Retail Federation (NRF)**

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As the world's largest retail trade association and the voice of retail worldwide, **NRF** represents retailers of all types and sizes, including chain restaurants and industry partners, from the United States and more than 45 countries abroad. Retailers operate more than 3.6 million U.S. establishments that support one in four U.S. jobs – 42 million working Americans. Contributing \$2.5 trillion to annual GDP, retail is a daily barometer for the nation's economy. NRF's Retail Means Jobs campaign emphasizes the economic importance of retail and encourages policymakers to support a Jobs, Innovation and Consumer Value Agenda aimed at boosting economic growth and job creation. [www.nrf.com](http://www.nrf.com)

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As the largest retail trade association in Canada and the voice of retail, **RCC** represents retailers of all types and sizes, including independent merchants, specialty retailers, grocery and pharmacy chains, department stores, big box retailers and dot.com merchants. RCC's membership represents more than 85% of all retail sales in Canada. Retailers employ more than 2 million Canadians and the industry is the largest employer in the country. RCC is recognized as the most authoritative and effective advocate for retailers in Canada and its mission is to advance, promote and protect the interests of its members through effective advocacy, communications and education.

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