



Independent Retail Europe

For groups of independent retailers

PRESS RELEASE

Independent Retail Europe: building an alternative vision for retail growth

Brussels, 16 October 2013: Independent Retail Europe is the new name for the EU representation of groups of independent retailers to EU and international institutions. The new name was revealed on the 50th birthday of the organisation, until today, known as UGAL.

Groups of independent retailers provide an alternative and sustainable vision for retail growth in Europe. Made up of over 355,000 independent retailers, generating 5 million EU jobs, and a combined retail and wholesale turnover of 960 billion euros, Independent Retail Europe members are some of the top performers on the EU retail market. The new name, and branding, of their European association, aims to better capture their dynamic and impactful presence in Europe.

To mark the 50th anniversary, and name change, an evening celebration was held in Brussels. Commissioner Mimica and MEP Harbour provided the key note speeches on consumer and internal market issues.

Independent Retail Europe president, Ralf Gerking, commented, *"I am delighted that our members are at the forefront of retail growth across Europe. This shows that alternative business models such as those of our members clearly work. This is particularly impressive considering that the economic situation remains challenging, e-commerce is disrupting traditional ways of doing business and competition is intense in the retail sector. Our group models really provide for independent entrepreneurship, long term sustainability and growth for SME retailers."*

Discussing the name change to Independent Retail Europe he added, *"this is a landmark event for our association and the independent retail segment. UGAL was a success for the last 50 years and under its new name, Independent Retail Europe, our association will continue to help its members prosper over the long term."*

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Note to editor:

Independent Retail Europe represents retail groupings characterised by the provision of a support network to independent SME retail entrepreneurs; joint purchasing of goods and services to attain efficiencies and economies of scale, as well as respect for the independent character of the individual independent retailer.

Our members are groups of independent retailers, associations representing groups of independent retailers and service organisations built to support independent retailers.

Find out more at www.independentretailleurope.eu