

Join Independent Retail Europe

Did you know that 75% of national legislation emanates from European legislation?

This means that, in order to avoid national legislation that is burdensome or hinders your company's development or lessens your competitiveness, you need to act at European level.

Independent Retail Europe acts at European level on behalf of Groups of Independent Retailers.

Independent Retail Europe is the Brussels-based, unique, influential, experienced and respected voice of Groups of Independent Retailers across Europe.

We promote the different business models of groups of independent retailers. We influence EU (and consequently national) law on your behalf, according to your needs and your perspective. We do this with the sole objective of increasing the competitiveness of groups of independent retailers.

It is important that we show to the European authorities that groups of independent retailers not only exist, but thrive in all European countries and are indispensable to the diversity of the market, competition, entrepreneurship, and consumer choice. There is a danger that integrated chains are seen as the only business model for retail across Europe. We make sure that alternative business models, such as groups of independent retailers, are viewed as a valuable, alternative driver of retail growth, entrepreneurship and competitive SMEs.

Join us to empower Independent Retail Europe.

By joining Independent Retail Europe you help strengthen the voice of groups of independent retailers and the independent retail sector in Europe.

Together we have a stronger voice and by working together we can secure the success of groups of independent retailers and a diverse European retail market.

With your support we can ensure that your interests are directly taken into account in Brussels policy-making by shaping the political positioning of our specific sector and by contributing to, and influencing, EU policy-making to benefit your business model.

In addition to fighting for the issues of interest to groups of independent retailers, we also keep you up-to-date on all new EU (and, where useful, national) legislation that will affect your group and your members in the near future, thus providing you with a competitive advantage over your competitors.

You can also expect us to:

- identify and analyse any developments on European level that may affect your business model;
- interpret and explain complex EU legislation and respond to your technical questions;

- base our strategies and actions on your expertise and opinion; and
- compare your national rules with those of other EU countries through ad hoc comparative surveys/reports, etc. to share knowledge.

What is more, Independent Retail Europe facilitates networking with both policy makers and your peers from across Europe.

By becoming a member of Independent Retail Europe, you become part of the close-knit family of groups of independent retailers that jointly respond to the challenge of multi-national, integrated chains.

We organize:

- an annual conference and specific gatherings for you to exchange experiences and best practices with your peers from across the EU;
- meetings in Brussels for you to meet relevant policy makers and politicians at your convenience;
- possibilities to increase your visibility, i.e. speaking at events, having links on our home page etc.

Who should apply?

- **Groups of independent retailers, or trade associations** (food and non-food) representing these groups regardless of their size, turnover or market-share.
- **Wholesale** groups and their trade associations (food and non-food) regardless of their size, turnover or market-share, pursuing similar goals.

How to apply?

Please contact the Director General, Else.Groen@independentretaileurope.eu