

**INVITATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ON WEDNESDAY 15 AND THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2023 IN COPENHAGEN**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the President, Mr Thomas NONN, we have the pleasure of inviting you to our General Assembly and Annual Conference on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March 2023 in Copenhagen.

SPAR International kindly supports this event and has prepared a very interesting programme for both days. All participants are first invited to have lunch, followed by a briefing on the Danish market and a visit of some unique stores on Wednesday afternoon. In the evening there will be a joint dinner. We warmly thank SPAR International for its valuable support and help with the organisation of this event.

On Thursday 16 March, the meeting will take place at NH Collection Copenhagen (Strandgade 7, 1401 København, Denmark).

- The first part of the morning (8.00-9.00) will be dedicated to the annual General Assembly. **Participation in the General Assembly is open to the leadership of our member organisations.**
- This will be followed by the **Annual Conference on “Sustainability as a Means to Continued Growth”** (9.00-15.00). As usual, the Annual Conference will end early enough to enable all participants to fly back home in the afternoon. With the metro line number 2, participants can easily reach the airport from the meeting venue (an 11-minute trip).
- **Please note that the programme on 15 March as well as the Annual Conference are open to external guests and to all staff members and members of your organisation. We invite you to send this invitation to your colleagues, members and retailers in order to enable them to have fruitful and constructive exchanges with their foreign counterparts.**

You will find attached all the practical information (accommodation, costs). [The registration form is available online](#). Participants are kindly requested to fill it in **BY WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY**. Should you need additional information, please contact Laurence (laurence.dessouroux@independentretailleurope.eu, +32 2 732 46 60).

We look forward to seeing you in Copenhagen!

Kind regards,

Else GROEN, Director General

ANNEXES

- Practical information (page 2)
- **Draft** programme (pages 3 and 4)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

1. ACCOMODATION

Rooms have been reserved at the [NH Collection Copenhagen](#) in Copenhagen (Strandgade 7, 1401 Copenhagen).

When arriving at Copenhagen airport, take [metro line number 2](#) (Lufthavnen-Christianshavn) to the meeting venue. The “NH Collection Copenhagen” is 300 m away from the metro station Christianshavn.

The price of the rooms amounts to 1.555 DKK per room and per night for a single occupancy (i.e. around 208 euro), VAT, city tax and breakfast included. For a double room the price amounts to 1.700 DKK (i.e. around 228 euro).

We book the rooms for the participants (see [registration form](#)). Participants are kindly requested to pay directly the hotel for their rooms when they leave the hotel at the end of their stay.

Please note that **after 14 February it will no longer be possible to cancel a room booking without incurring a fee. In this case YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR THE ROOM ANYWAY.**

2. PARTICIPATION FEE

The participation fee, which amount to **250 euro per participant**, aim to cover the costs of Independent Retail Europe for the organisation of this event (meeting room, lunch, etc.).

We would be grateful if you could transfer this fee in euros to our bank account at the bank ING (Cours Saint Michel 40, 1040 Brussels) BE24 3630 0638 2438 (BIC: BBRUBEBB).

Please instruct your bank to debit any bank charges for the transfer to the payer.

3. TRANSLATION

You are kindly requested to indicate on the registration form whether you need interpretation for the Annual Conference.

To facilitate the preparation of the seating plan for the dinner, we kindly ask you to indicate on the registration form what languages you speak (English, French, German, Spanish, Italian...).

4. LEAVING COPENHAGEN ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON

The Annual Conference will end early enough to enable all participants to fly back home on that day. The participants can take metro line number 2 to the airport immediately after the meeting. To get from the hotel to the airport will take about 25 minutes on the whole. **Participants can therefore book their departure flights from 17.30 onwards.**

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 15 AND 16 MARCH 2023 – COPENHAGEN
- PROGRAMME -**

Wednesday 15 March

Meeting venue: NH Collection Copenhagen (Strandgade 7, 1401 København, Denmark)

12.30	Sandwich lunch
14.00	Welcome to Denmark and market briefing Tobias WASMUHT , Managing Director, SPAR International Esben KELLER , CEO, SPAR Denmark
14.40	Store visits – Supermarket and general retail <i>Please wear comfortable shoes, part of the tour will be on foot.</i>
17.30	Return to the hotel
18.25	Meet in the lobby of the hotel – Transfer to the dinner venue at 18.30 sharp <i>Dress code: business casual</i>
19.00	Dinner

Thursday 16 March

Independent Retail Europe General Assembly and Annual Conference

Meeting venue: NH Collection Copenhagen (Strandgade 7, 1401 København, Denmark)

8.00	Independent Retail Europe General Assembly - RESERVED TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE INDEPENDENT RETAIL EUROPE MEMBERS
9.00	Start of the Annual Conference “Sustainability as a Means to Continued Growth” - OPEN TO EXTERNAL GUESTS AND TO ALL STAFF MEMBERS AND MEMBERS OF INDEPENDENT RETAIL EUROPE MEMBER ORGANISATIONS
9.00-9.05	Introduction to the conference Else GROEN, Director General, Independent Retail Europe
9.05-9.35	Transitioning to a Circular and Green Economy Ilias IAKOVIDIS, Adviser for Digital Aspects of Green Transformation, European Commission, Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology
9.35-09.45	Q&As
9.45-10.10	Meeting the needs of the European consumer of today and tomorrow Boris PLANER, Head of Consumer & Market Insight
10.10-10.20	Q&As
10.20-10.35	Interview Malene HANSEN, independent retailer, SPAR Denmark
10.35-10.45	Q&As
10.45-11.10	COFFEE BREAK
11.10-12.20	Session 1 – Towards a circular and greener future
11.10-11.15	Opening Tobias WASMUHT, Managing Director, SPAR International
11.15-11.30	Sustainability as a cornerstone of growth Riikka JOUKIO, Executive Vice President in charge of corporate responsibility and public affairs, KESKO

11.30-11.45	Jens STROEMNES, Managing Director, Expert International
11.45-12.00	Independently led sustainable change Frank ELLINGJORD-DALE, Sustainability Manager, NorgesGruppen/SPAR Norway
12.00-12.15	Panel discussion
12.15-12.20	Conclusion Tobias WASMUHT, Managing Director, SPAR International
12.20-13.20	NETWORKING LUNCH
13.20-14.50	Session 2 – Purpose driven retail
13.20-13.25	Opening Tom ROSE, Head of International Operations, SPAR International
13.25-13.55	Supply chain priorities in times of crisis Professor Michael BOURLAKIS, Director of Research for Cranfield School of Management and Director of the Centre of Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management
13.55-14.20	The future of sustainable supply chain management Marjan DE BOCK-SMIT, CEO Impact-Buying
14.20-14.35	Reducing food waste in the supply chain – Too Good To Go Mette LYKKE, CEO Too Good to Go
14.35-14.50	Panel discussion
14.50-14.55	Conclusion Tom ROSE, Head of International Operations, SPAR International
14.55-15.00	Close of the conference Else GROEN, Director General, Independent Retail Europe
15.00	Departure to the airport