

"Independent retail: A cornerstone of vibrant local communities in Europe"

EP event organised by Independent Retail Europe in partnership with SME Connect

Date: Wednesday 5 February 2025

Time: 18:00 – 21:00

Location: European Parliament, Members Salon, Brussels

Hosting MEP (Member of the European Parliament): Jörgen WARBORN (EPP, Sweden)

Programme in detail

18:00 – Opening & welcome by the moderator, Tamsin ROSE, communications expert and former journalist

Welcomes

- * Dr. Horst Heitz (Chair of the Steering Committee of SME Connect)
- * MEP Jörgen Warborn
- * MEP Axel Voss (TBC)

18:26 – Brief word of welcome & fireside chat with Thomas Nonn, REWE Group – President Independent Retail Europe on the challenges for groups of independent retailers

Film on the business model of groups of independent retailers

18:39 – Panel discussions

Panellists:

- * Britta Goertz – Retailer, member of ANWR (Germany, non-food (shoes))
- * Clara Medina Perdomo – Retailer, member of SPAR (Spain, Gran Canaria, food)
- * Thierry Cotillard – Retailer, member & President of Groupement Mousquetaires (France, food and non-food)
- * Thomas Widlund – Retailer, member of ICA (Sweden, food)
- * MEP Kristian Vigenin
- * MEP Herbert Dorfmann (TBC)

19:33 – Key points from our Manifesto

Else Groen, Independent Retail Europe, Director General

Moderator close

19:40 – Networking session with drinks and food