

Press release  
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FTA  
Foreign Trade Association

## EUROPEAN RETAILERS CALL ON THE G20 TO PROMOTE TRADE AND RESIST PROTECTIONISM

**The European retailers in the Foreign Trade Association (FTA) expect the G20 leaders to make headway on promoting trade and investments and reaffirm their commitment against protectionism at the forthcoming G20 Summit in Canada.**

At the forthcoming G20 meeting in Toronto, the heads of state will hold discussion about financial stability and economic recovery. Trade has an important role to play in anchoring the economic recovery. The European retailers represented by the Foreign Trade Association (FTA) expect the G20 leaders to make headway on promoting trade and investment and fighting protectionism.

In defiance of the promise by G20 leaders to keep the market open, the major trading partners are continuing to impose protectionist measures. Recent reports by the European Commission and by the WTO showed that protectionist policies resulted in an impact greater than was known at the time of the Pittsburgh summit last September.

The European Commission recently reported that between November 2009 and April 2010, 73 trade restrictive measures were introduced, bringing the total figure of measures in force to 278. The tendency towards new protectionist measures persists. Continuing to add to the stock of protectionist measures without rectifying them puts the economic recovery at risk.

FTA believes that there could be a risk for a second wave of protectionist policies and we call upon the G20 members to reaffirm their commitment to the removal of the measures in place and implement that commitment. Trade flows need to rebound in a balanced way across the globe to help the recovery gain ground.

“We would like to see the G20 driving a proactive agenda on trade, as this would be a fundamental component of the economic recovery”, said Jan Eggert, the Foreign Trade Association Secretary General.

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*The FTA is the association for European commerce that specialises in foreign trade issues. It is committed to achieving its goal of a true free trade environment. For 30 years it has supported its members, consisting of national trade associations and companies from all over Europe, by providing expertise and up-to-date information and by campaigning on their behalf against protectionist measures in the European and international arena.*

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