



# "The Importance of the Commerce Sector in City Centers"

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Bestufs Workshop Environmental Zones  
Madrid



# What is EuroCommerce?

- **Founded in 1993**
- **The Retail, Wholesale and International Trade Representation to the EU**
- **Currently counts more than 100 members from 29 European Countries:**
  - national trade associations
  - individual companies
  - European sectorial trade associations



## The commerce sector in the EU

- Interface between industry and the 480 million consumers across Europe
- 13% of EU GDP
- 6 millions companies, 95% of these are small enterprises
- Providing jobs to 30 million people from all parts of society



# Logistics Working Group

- Set up Autumn 2004
- Meetings 3-4 times a year
- Composed of experts
- Identify priorities
  - 2008: urban mobility, freight logistics and supply chain security
- Provide technical input + practical examples



# Urban Mobility

## Green Paper on Urban Mobility

- Lack of mention Freight Transport
- Role of commerce in city centres
  - Quality of life
  - Vitality
  - Wealth and growth
- Efficient and sustainable transport system



# Greener Towns and cities

## The commerce sector

- has a strong interest in clean and viable cities, and
- already takes measures reducing negative aspects of freight transport



# Environmental Zones

- Traffic restriction...
- Administrative burden...
- Financial burden...



# Environmental Zones

## Traffic restriction

- Last mile delivery remains road transport
- Lack of viable alternatives
- Cities must remain accessible for both goods and customers transport



# Environmental Zones

## Administrative burden

- SMEs
- Information campaign
- Harmonisation EU Level



# Environmental Zones

## Financial Charges

- **Eurovignette (Directive 99/62/EC)**  
common rules on distance-related tolls and time-based user charges for heavy goods vehicles (above 12 tonnes) for the use of certain infrastructure
- **Internalisation of external costs**
- **Fuel prices increase**
- **Congestion charging, etc**



# Solutions

- **Co-operation/co-ordination different actors**
- **Technical investments**
- **Viable alternatives to road transport**
- **Attractive and effective public transport networks**
- **Better spatial planning**
- **Incentives to promote new technologies**
- **Inventory best practices and its dissemination**



## Conclusion

- Access to city centres vital for cities
- Both for goods and customer
- Extra charges and Traffic restriction of freight transport detrimental



# Thank you

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