



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
AND SMES  
Ecosystems I: Chemicals, Food, Retail  
**The Director**

Brussels, 3 February 2023

GROW.F.3/GF

**Ms Christel Delberghe**  
**Director General EuroCommerce**

**Ms Else Groen Director General**  
**Independent Retail Europe**

**Mr Todor Ivanov**  
**Secretary General Euro Coop**

Dear Christel,  
Dear Else,  
Dear Todor,

Thank you for your joint letter of 9 November 2022 drawing the attention of Commissioner Breton to recent legislative proposals in which you claim that the drafting of some provisions could lead to blurring responsibilities among and between economic operators.

He has asked me to reply.

I am aware that on 15 December, you organised a workshop to illustrate the possible impact of the proposed legislations along the supply chain and that you plan a further one on 2 March.

The legislative proposals you mention aim to make the EU a better place to live and do business and to lead global change.

In this context, it is important to establish a duty of due diligence along the supply chain. The provisions dealing with this matter in the different legislative proposals do not entail a blurring of responsibilities. They identify who should take action and who is ultimately responsible in case of breach of obligations while imposing a due diligence duty to all economic operators. All operators have to play an active role to avoid any loophole in the value-chain. This should lead to more efficiency in the controls which need to be carried out to ensure the proper enforcement of the legislations.

I am available if you would like to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)  
**Kristin SCHREIBER**

