

European Cultural and Creative Industries Alliance

Brussels, 15 October 2019

ECCIA expresses concerns over escalating EU-US trade tensions

On 2 October, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) issued a ruling awarding the United States rights to impose \$ 7,5 billion worth of tariffs on European products as a result of a long-running dispute over subsidies in the aviation sector.

The European Cultural and Creatives Industries Association (ECCIA), which brings together over 400 luxury and high-end brands, expresses strong concerns over the economic impact of escalating trade tensions between the European Union and the United States of America. The implementation of tariffs would not only be detrimental to the luxury and high-end sector and the whole European economy, they would also weaken the US and EU's respective positions on the global scale.

Carlos Falco, President of ECCIA, said: *"We are deeply concerned by the recent WTO decision. We strongly encourage the EU and the US to find diplomatic solutions and avoid escalation at all costs. The US remains one of our key trade partners. If implemented, these new trade barriers would harm jobs and investments in our sector while simultaneously hurting American consumers. Our mutually-beneficial trade relationship is rooted in our common history and shared interests and this is what we should focus on"*.

About ECCIA

The European Cultural and Creative Industries Alliance (ECCIA) is composed of five European cultural and creative industries organisations - Altgamma (Italy), Circulo Fortuny (Spain), Comité Colbert (France), Meisterkreis (Germany) and Walpole (UK) - who between them represent over 400 brands and cultural institutions.

Based on art, culture and creativity, ECCIA's work is underpinned by continuous innovation, a relentless focus on quality, highly skilled employment and strong exports abroad. Our members strive for the highest quality in all they do, from products and services all the way to the experience offered to consumers.

Find out more about ECCIA : <http://www.eccia.eu/>