



## Welcome: Celebrating 40 Years

### Overview

FTA's Director General will welcome FTA members and stakeholders to discuss, discover and design ways of unleashing opportunity for businesses, governments and communities around the world.

**Christian Ewert**, FTA Director General

### Session Highlights

#### Expectations from the audience with the catchbox:

TUV Rheinland: I plan to learn more about future of FTA, what you plan for the coming years.

Intern: I am interested in China.

Another attendee: I have the expectation to go deep into sustainable topics.

#### Opening remarks:

Last year the power of collaboration, this year is more abstract: , 'unleash opportunity'.

We have over 400 attendees.

Sustainable supply chains are the new normal.

Not build up walls, I come from a country where we tore down walls.

We have given up on environmental commitments.

Together we can move the world.

40 years of achievements.

In 1977 tariffs were at an all-time low. We were a small group of companies that wanted to improve the trade agenda, for example textile quotas. We wanted an awareness of social compliance and have a positive impact on supply chains.

2003 was the launch of BSCI, with a small group of committed members in retail that needed better labour conditions.

Today we are clearly globally recognized.

In 2014, there was the launch of BEPI.

The members of FTA are now from New Zealand and Romania, in all sectors. We now have 2005 members. We have outgrown from being just a European association. We have 14 representations and 18 languages.

There are new trends and new technologies. For example, robot mechanization, AI, and 3D printing.

Concerning sustainability, natural resources are becoming scarce.

In terms of international standards/actors, the UN SDGs are our driving theme.

### Quotes

“Sustainable supply chains are the new normal.”

“FTA continues to expand from a European organisation based in Brussels to an international organisation and we now have 14 representations across several continents”

“ UN SDGs are our driving theme.”