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Membre de l’Union des Éditeurs de la Presse Périodique

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## MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY GENERAL

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Dear UNICE@news Readers,

### **UNICE has a new President**



It is with enthusiasm that we have welcomed our new President, Ernest-Antoine Seillière, who from the very beginning has expressed strong views on competitiveness issues. He wants to make the “voice of business” very clear. He participated recently in a press conference with Commissioner Potocnik, presenting a report on R&D in the EU. The President supported the Commissioner’s view that, in the debate on the financial perspectives, the amount for R&D has to be doubled. Ernest-Antoine Seillière added that not doing so would send a very negative signal to the EU Council.

### **Europe has a new Presidency**

This time the suicide bombers struck in London. The European business community unreservedly condemns this criminal attack on innocent people. Our thoughts and sympathies are with those killed and injured as well as their families and friends. We have also addressed our token of sympathy to our colleagues in CBI.

UNICE has prepared its priorities for the British Presidency which started on 1 July and runs until the end of the year. These include adaptation of the EU social model to meet the requirements of today’s world. This fits in with an informal summit in the autumn announced by Prime Minister Blair which is to examine the European social model. UNICE will present its views in good time for this important debate. The President of UNICE as well as the President of CBI will meet Prime Minister Blair in October.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Philippe de Buck".

Philippe de Buck  
Secretary General

### ERNEST-ANTOINE SEILLIÈRE SUCCEEDS JÜRGEN STRUBE AS UNICE PRESIDENT

Two days before the end of his mandate as UNICE President, Jürgen Strube passed on the baton to Ernest-Antoine Seillière, CEO of Wendel Investissement and, until then, President of UNICE's French member MEDEF. At a press conference and reception organised on 28 June 2005 in Brussels, the new UNICE President thanked Jürgen Strube for his great commitment to the European business community over the last two years: *"We owe Jürgen Strube a debt of gratitude for all his work. On all fronts, he has been present, defending the interests of European companies in the world", Ernest-Antoine Seillière said. "His two years at the helm have seen competitiveness move up the policy agenda, thanks in no small part to the Competitiveness Day initiative."*



In difficult times for European integration, Mr Seillière outlined the following priorities:

- Place enterprise, the creator of wealth, at the centre of the debate on the future of Europe;
- Take an active role in the social dialogue, aimed at finding solutions for social progress in Europe;
- Make innovation the motor of development and progress;
- Communicate the need for competitiveness and its favourable implications for growth and jobs.



The new UNICE President concluded: *"I will be defending a European project that strengthens our economy and makes it sustainable. European entrepreneurs place emphasis on the growth and jobs strategy and will continue to communicate this clearly. As the voice of business in Europe, UNICE wants to engage actively in the debate on the future of Europe that the incoming President of the European Council, Prime Minister Blair, has called for."*



Photos © Imagima

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# UNICE HIGHLIGHTS

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**“CROSSING FRONTIERS”: JOIN OUR DEMONSTRATION FOR COMPETITIVENESS!**

## UNICE COMPETITIVENESS DAY 2005

**20 OCTOBER 2005**

AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S HEMICYCLE IN BRUSSELS

■ It is three years ago since UNICE organised the first Competitiveness Day in Brussels. Since that time, the yearly event has attracted hundreds of top business leaders and political decision-makers. Held in the Hemicycle of the European Parliament in Brussels, this year's pan-European business demonstration for competitiveness will certainly get its clear messages across once again.



The theme on 20 October 2005 is “**Crossing Frontiers**” and addresses the reality that businesses increasingly have to operate against a global backdrop. Among other aspects, modern communication technologies mean that a whole range of activities can be conducted almost anywhere in the world.

The UNICE Competitiveness Day seeks to show how business and policy-makers can work together to turn opportunities into reality.

Participants include the President of the European Parliament, Josep Borrell, the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, EU Commissioner Peter Mandelson, Luca Cordero di Montezemolo - President of Confindustria, President of Ferrari and President of FIAT, Jean-Philippe Courtois - CEO of Microsoft Europe, Middle East and Africa, and Senior Vice-President Microsoft Corporation, Narayana Murthy – Chairman of the Board and Chief Mentor of Infosys, Lucy Neville-Rolfe - Member of the Board of Tesco, a number of MEPs and many others.

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## WIN BACK CONFIDENCE IN EU'S ECONOMIC POLICY STANCE

■ After the failure on the agreement for the financial perspectives 2007-2013 and the current European political crisis opened with the negative referendums in France and the Netherlands, the European business community expects the UK to tackle key economic policy issues in order to move forward the strategy for growth and jobs. UNICE is ready to take part in the discussions around the modernisation of the European Union social model which must be based on growth, employment and high productivity. On the financial perspectives dossier, UNICE expects the UK Presidency to take it as a matter of urgency, giving the highest priority to competitiveness-enhancing programmes, such as research, TENs, training and support to innovative SMEs. Furthermore, better impact assessment is crucial to gain an idea about the cost-effectiveness of new legislation, as is measurement of the size of existing administrative burdens which is an important information-based tool for identifying

simplification priorities. The European business community continues to view the REACH dossier as a test case for the EU's ability to draw up cost-effective legislation. UNICE encourages the UK Presidency to continue a thorough assessment of the current text before reaching a political agreement in the Council by the end of this year. In the current difficult political scenario, better advocacy and communication on the services directive proposal is also essential to avoid misconceptions and to illustrate the advantages of having a genuine common market for services. Finally, in the international sphere, the most important issue for international economic relations is the December WTO Ministerial conference in Hong Kong which must achieve a real improvement on all issues under negotiation, especially the priority economic issues for business: industrial market access, services liberalisation and trade facilitation.

## BETTER REGULATION: SIMPLIFICATION SHOULD GENUINELY REDUCE BURDENS AND RENDER LEGISLATION COST-EFFECTIVE

■ UNICE has welcomed the Commission's launch of a framework of action to reduce the volume of the Community 'acquis', simplify existing legislation and screen pending proposals. Too much red tape is one of the most common complaints from businesses. The cumulative effect of many regulations and formalities is to slow down business responsiveness, divert resources away from productive investment, reduce innovation and job creation and discourage entrepreneurship. In this context, UNICE has expressed concerns about several pieces of legislation and pending proposals whilst underlining that simplification should render

legislation cost-effective by effectively reducing burdens. Simplification proposals should not increase burdens, for example by forcing enterprises to invest more time and resources in adapting to the changes or by forcing them to comply with new requirements added as a result of the legislative process. It is of vital importance that the Council and the European Parliament modify their working methods so that simplification proposals can be dealt with quickly and do not become burdens in themselves, and that stakeholders are continuously consulted throughout the process of developing, determining and adopting simplification measures.

For further information, please contact [Erik Berggren](#) or consult [UNICE letter](#) to Commission Verheugen.

## AFRICA: G8 TO WORK TOGETHER FOR DEVELOPMENT

In advance of the G8 Summit (Gleneagles, 6-8 July 2005), in a letter addressed to the G8 President, Prime Minister Tony Blair, UNICE outlined that it was in the interest of all industrialised countries to cooperate closely with African counterparts to address development challenges, while ensuring that Africans have real ownership of the key objectives. When combined with other trade and development policies, the G8 Africa initiative should significantly improve the development prospects and the integration of African countries into the world economy. The new measures agreed in Gleneagles contribute to that objective and should now be implemented effectively by all partners concerned.

The letter also addresses climate change issues. UNICE called for the G8 discussions to achieve progress on the issue of how to launch a process for

combating climate change internationally post-2012. An effective strategy can only be organised by a truly comprehensive global agreement, including tangible participation of all countries, with a fair sharing of efforts. UNICE also called for a package of practical measures, which includes funding for technological development and also adequate resources for the Clean Development Mechanism that enables real emission reductions through projects in developing countries. The G8 leaders acknowledged that climate change needs to be addressed globally and pledged to promote innovation, energy efficiency, regulatory and financing frameworks to accelerate deployment of cleaner technologies worldwide. These measures are welcomed and should contribute to the overall objectives if implemented effectively by all partners concerned.

For further information, please contact [Adrian van den Hoven](#) or [Daniel Cloquet](#), or consult [UNICE letter to Tony Blair](#).

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## LEGAL AFFAIRS

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### 2<sup>ND</sup> COMPANY LAW DIRECTIVE ON CAPITAL MAINTENANCE: EP DISCUSSION

Readers will recall from previous edition of UNICE@News that the European Commission has proposed on 29 October 2004 a directive to make it easier for public limited liability companies to take certain measures affecting the size, structure and ownership of their capital. The proposal would amend the parts of the 1976 second company law directive covering the formation, maintenance and alteration of capital.

The report drafted by Ms Pia-Noora Kauppi (PP-Fin), the Rapporteur in the European Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee, was discussed at the Legal Affairs meeting on 20/21 June. Ms Kauppi has developed her report containing 17 amendments to the Commission's proposal. Whilst she approves the objectives to simplify the process, she believes that the Commission had failed to achieve this, removing obstacles on the one hand, but adding new requirements on the other. Her greatest

concern is over 'squeeze-out' and 'sell-out'. She was supported by other MEPs present in the discussion (notably Mr K.-H. Lehne (PPE-D), Ms A. McCarthy (PSE-UK)] in arguing that squeeze-out/sell-out had had its place in takeovers bids, but not in the day to day business of a company. They both agreed that the Commission had set up unnecessary barriers.

Ms Kauppi expressed confidence that consensus would be easily achieved in the Committee, and it was agreed to hold another discussion in the September meeting of the Legal Affairs Committee.

UNICE considers that the sell-out right of the shareholders as a counterpart to the squeeze-out should be rejected as there is no identifiable need for this. The complex procedure regarding the appropriateness of the price also lays it open to abuse.

For further information, please contact [David Coleman](#) or consult [UNICE comments](#).

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT REJECTS COUNCIL'S COMMON POSITION ON COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED INVENTIONS

On 06 July 2005, the European Parliament voted during its plenary meeting in Strasbourg to reject the Council's common position regarding the proposed directive on the patentability of computer-implemented inventions. 648 MEPs voted against the common position with 14 voting against the rejection and 18 abstentions.

The rejection of the common position after a long and difficult debate would avoid re-opening long-standing basic concepts and definitions of industrial

property protection, which would have harmed innovative companies in Europe, small, medium-sized and large.

UNICE stressed the need for the EU to support innovation, since Europe's capacity to innovate in new technologies will be key in boosting the European economy and providing additional jobs and growth. UNICE stressed that it is prepared to participate in the debate on any initiatives that might be taken.

For further information, please contact [Ilias Konteas](#) or consult [UNICE press release](#).

## UNICE CONTRIBUTES TO ENSURING CONSUMER PROTECTION IN THE ENLARGED EUROPE

As you learned in our previous edition, on 20-21 June 2005 the European Commission organised a seminar entitled "Enlargement and consumer protection one year on – the business perspective". The aim of the meeting was to inform the business sector in the ten new Member States, as well as in Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, on their obligations coming from the implementation of consumer protection legislation.

UNICE actively participated in the organisation of the seminar and provided several speakers. It was also represented by delegates from its member federations from the above countries.

**Anders Stenlund**, from the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, presented UNICE's perspective on strengths and weaknesses of the consumer regulatory framework.

**Carlos Almaraz**, Senior Adviser in charge of consumer affairs at UNICE, presented business views on the directive on unfair commercial practices. UNICE urged the Commission to play a key role in ensuring that the directive is transposed in national law in a timely and accurate manner.

**Annette Dragsdahl**, from UNICE's Danish member federation DI, presented the business

perspective on conformity assessment. The results of a UNICE survey on the functioning of the Internal Market gave the starting point.



**Chris Hodges**, from Cambridge University, presented industry experience with the notification requirement. The Commission Guidelines on notification and the Guide on corrective action were reported to provide a useful and pragmatic insight on the legal requirements.

UNICE hopes that more events to increase knowledge and compliance of economic operators in new Member States with EU rules will be organised by the Commission in the future.

For further information, please contact [Carlos Almaraz](#) or consult [speeches](#) or the [guide on corrective action](#).

## PUBLIC PAPERS RECENTLY ADOPTED

- UNICE letter to EFRAG on [IFRIC D16, Scope of IFRS 2](#)
- UNICE letter to EFRAG on [IFRIC D17, Group and treasury share transactions](#)
- UNICE letter to Commissioner Verheugen on [better regulation](#)
- UNICE press release on [computer-implemented inventions](#)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

- UNICE response to second consultation by European Commission on shareholders' rights

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## SOCIAL AFFAIRS

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### MODERNISATION OF EUROPEAN SOCIAL MODEL: SOCIAL PARTNERS MEET SOCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

■ The EU social partners met the Social Affairs Council on the eve of the informal meeting held in Belfast on 7-8 July 2005. A key objective of the UK presidency is to try and build a consensus on the modernisation of Europe's social model. UNICE stressed that a social model that works can only be based on growth, employment and high productivity. With the renewed Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs, the EU has a roadmap to move

forward. In the new work programme for the EU Social Dialogue, which is currently being discussed with ETUC, the European social partners should build on their joint declaration of March 2005 which sketched out a joint understanding of the key elements for Europe's competitiveness and try to develop a joint conception of a modernised social model meeting the challenges of today's world.

For further information, please contact [Thérèse de Liedekerke](#) or consult [UNICE speech](#).

### RESTRUCTURING: UNICE ISSUES ITS POSITION ON COMMISSION COMMUNICATION

■ In reply to the debate launched by the Commission communication, UNICE has published a position paper on restructuring.

UNICE shares the Commission's overall aim of fostering a positive attitude to change and enhancing Europe's capacity to manage it proactively. However, it does not support the proposal to create a new capacity for Community intervention in crisis cases and has the greatest doubts about the added value of a new forum on restructuring.

With regard to the social partners' second consultation, while appreciating its open character, UNICE remains convinced that launching it was neither desirable, nor necessary. UNICE and its member federations are committed to promoting the orientations of reference on managing change and its social consequences negotiated with ETUC as well as the shared lessons on European works councils. We are currently collecting information on actions taken to that effect in Member States and will report on them ahead of the Tripartite Social Summit in March 2006. We strongly hope that ETUC and its members will join us in this effort.

For further information, please contact [Thérèse de Liedekerke](#) or consult [UNICE position paper](#).

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## YOUTH: UNICE CALLS FOR AN INTER-GENERATIONAL APPROACH

■ UNICE has taken a position on the communication “Addressing the concerns of young people in Europe – implementing the European Youth Pact and promoting active citizenship” published by the European Commission on 30 May 2005. This communication is the Commission follow-up to the adoption of the European Youth Pact by the European Council in March 2005.

The integration of young people into the labour market is an important challenge for Europe’s

growth and competitiveness. It is therefore essential that positive action is taken to reach this ambitious target. In the position paper, UNICE recalls that to pay the necessary attention to the integration of young people into the labour market, any future initiative must be fully in line with the growth and employment strategy objectives. They also recall the importance of embedding specific actions targeting young people in a truly inter-generational approach in order to avoid adverse effects on other categories of workers.

For further information, please contact [Jeanne Schmitt](#) or consult [UNICE reply](#).

## PUBLIC PAPERS RECENTLY ADOPTED

- UNICE position on the Commission communication on [restructuring and employment](#)
- UNICE position on the Commission green paper on [demographic change](#)
- UNICE position on the Commission communication on [European policies concerning Youth](#)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

- UNICE position on the Commission framework strategy “Non-discrimination and equal opportunities for all”
- UNICE report on national social partners’ actions to promote the orientations of reference on managing change and its social consequences

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### CHINA: MARKET ECONOMY STATUS (MES)

■ In a letter from UNICE President Seillière to the President of the European Commission, Mr Barroso, UNICE has pointed out that it does not support granting MES to China at this time. While recognising China’s significant progress in its transition towards a market economy and its efforts to pursue reform process, UNICE believes that the rules and practices of a proper functioning market economy are still not fully implemented in China. UNICE has identified priority areas for reform including financial sector, government

intervention, freedom to trade, and enforcement of basic legal principles in IPR issues. Moreover, the EU decision to grant MES to China should be based on an impartial assessment of the business environment in China and fulfilment of the objective conditions that the EU has clearly spelt out. In the letter, UNICE also supports establishing a strategic partnership with China to fully develop the tremendous opportunities for increased cooperation.

For further information, please consult [UNICE letter](#).

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## TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

A UNICE high-level delegation led by UNICE President Elect, Ernest-Antoine Seillière, visited Washington at the time of the EU-US Summit (20 June). On that occasion, UNICE and the US Chamber of Commerce welcomed the results of the EU-US Summit. To lead to a barrier-free transatlantic market, they reiterated their call for a

forward-looking Transatlantic Trade, Investment and Regulatory Cooperation Agreement. To support that objective, UNICE and the US Chamber of Commerce will intensify their work on several issues including regulatory cooperation, WTO matters, and intellectual property.

For further information, please consult the [UNICE-US Chamber of Commerce joint statement](#).

## PUBLIC PAPERS RECENTLY ADOPTED

- UNICE letter to President Barroso on [China market economy status](#)
- [Joint UNICE-US Chamber of Commerce statement](#)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

- UNICE fiche on Development aspects of the DDA
- UNICE fiche on DDA NAMA negotiations

## INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS

### UNICE PRESIDENT E.-A. SEILLIÈRE MEETS COMMISSIONER POTOCNIK

At a press conference on 19 June 2005, UNICE President Ernest-Antoine Seillière was invited by Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for Research, to comment on the latest key figures on science, technology and innovation in Europe released by the European Commission. Data show that European expenditure on research and development are virtually stagnating whereas they should be increased dramatically to achieve the objectives set in Barcelona. In his speech, Mr Seillière outlined the conditions needed to boost business research and innovation efforts in Europe. Should the Council reject the Commission's budgetary proposals for the 7<sup>th</sup> RTD framework programme and fail to agree on a doubling of



Community funds for R&D on a yearly basis, Mr Seillière added, this would be a symbolic and very clear signal that governments lack vision and prioritisation regarding Europe's long-term economic and social development. The UNICE-Commission joint press conference followed an interview during which a number of other key topical issues were also discussed, such as EU's financial perspectives or developing the Commission's environmental initiatives. Mr Seillière concluded: *"Companies in Europe are impatient to see their governments converge in the recognition that R&D policy has to be strengthened. UNICE fully supports Commissioner Potocnik's wake-up call for knowledge Europe"*.

For further information, please consult [President Seillière's speech](#).

## UNICE RESPONDS TO THE COMMISSION'S FP7 PROPOSALS

UNICE finalised its initial response to the Commission's April 6th proposals for the 7th research framework programme (FP7) earlier this month.

As a first point, UNICE identifies and approves of the focus on the competitiveness of industry which is provided for in the section of the proposal on "cooperation". We are of the opinion that the correct implementation of these proposals could quite possibly reverse the documented decline in industrial participation.

We also concur with the FP7 proposals stressing the central role of research, development and innovation in ensuring the competitiveness of Europe's economy. It is our opinion that this central role needs to be reflected in budget allocations regardless of the current ongoing debate about who should pay what at the Member-State level.

We also express the belief that simply increasing the budget without addressing present failings in the

system (through a greater simplification of the rules) is not and will not be enough.

We strike a note of caution with regards to this fact stating that "should the proposed doubling of the budget not come to pass (which would imply that Europe is not interested in investing in its future but in its past) then it is our view that a reassessment of the FP7 proposals will be necessary especially in view of the proposed new instrument, the European Research Council".

In the end, while supportive of this Commission proposal we strike a note of caution. FP6, when it was first outlined, had much that was positive and encouraging about it and the research and industry communities had high hopes for it. The reality of FP6 however proved to be quite different.

Given the inconsistency between what was proposed for FP6 and what eventually came into being, we express the hope that our (and others') expectations for FP7 will, unlike with FP6, match the reality.

For further information, please contact [Vincent McGovern](#) or consult [UNICE comments](#).

## UNICE CONFIRMS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR THE COMPETITIVENESS OF EUROPEAN BUSINESS

UNICE was represented at the first Informal Competitiveness Council of UK Presidency's in Cardiff on 11 July.

Dr Horst Soboll, Chairman of the Research and Technological Innovation Working Group attended the first day's event; a conference entitled "The Seventh Framework Programme – excellence in science and the exploitation of science" and presented industry's views on the importance of the

framework programme for the competitiveness of European business.

Coming so soon after UNICE's finalising of its initial position on the Commission's FP7 proposals this represented an excellent opportunity to highlight UNICE's views to possibly the most important group of decision-makers in the European institutional triangle.

For further information, please contact [Vincent McGovern](#).

## RESULTS OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON REACH TESTING HAVE BEEN RELEASED

The strategic partnership initiative to test the current REACH proposal for workability (SPORT) has published its final report on 5 July. The report has highlighted 12 areas where the workability of REACH was questioned. Essentially the report has concluded that for the final regulation to be effective and deliver efficiently the information for sound chemical management the following may be needed:

- Simplification and clarification of the current legal proposed text
- More guidance tools and IT solutions
- Greater resources and expertise within industry, particularly SMEs, to operate the system
- A willingness and readiness of all those involved to adapt to the new system.

Specific issues were highlighted in the report including those on the sharing of information, the method of conveying information, the roles of all

members of the production chain, and the consistency and overlap with other legislation. For all 12 issues raised the partnership group made suggestions for improvement.

As next steps, it would make sense to iron out any difficulties foreseen prior to imposition of legislation in the preparatory phase. This will benefit industry, policy-makers and all stakeholders as the objectives can be achieved with maximum efficiency and minimum waste of valuable resources.

It will also be interesting to see how these findings affect the ongoing transition of the REACH proposal in Parliament and Council. However the fact that this was the first time such pilot study was carried out in partnership could serve as a useful mechanism to ensure better EU regulation.

For further information, please contact [Nadine Toscani](#) or consult the [full SPORT report](#).

## UNICE COMMENTS ON THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES TO PRODUCE ELECTRICITY

According to the 2001 renewables directive (EC/2001/77), the Commission shall by October 2005 report on the experience gained with the different support schemes used by member states to support electricity production based on renewable energy sources (RES-Electricity, or RES-E).

In this context, a UNICE task force chaired by Mr H.E. Kristoffersen (DI) has taken stock of the existing support scheme. On the basis of this analysis, it has developed a UNICE opinion which examines the issue of how an EU framework for supporting renewable energy production can be developed in a way that is:

- effective (the support measures must foster a meaningful increase in the quantity of electricity generated from renewables)
- and cost-efficient (increased RES-E supply should be obtained through a strategy which minimises the direct and indirect costs linked to it).

The UNICE opinion highlights that to ensure the cost-efficient integration of RES-E into the grid

and supply system, focus should be laid on the following topics:

- Ensuring a better planning and overall management of the electricity networks.
- Finding solutions for efficient balancing of wind power and other technologies with fluctuating production.
- Giving incentives for innovations leading to reliable and low-priced RES-E generation.

It is essential that the Community-wide framework to be developed in the area of renewables gives Member States the possibility to offset, in the most harmonised manner possible, the financial burdens on energy-intensive industries resulting from RES-E support schemes, so that their competitiveness is not jeopardised.

A higher degree of flexibility is needed in order to enhance the possibilities to meet national targets outside a member state's own national territory. This is needed in order to minimise costs in some Member States.

UNICE intends to meet Commission DG TREN in September on the issue.

For further information, please contact [Daniel Cloquet](#) or consult [UNICE comments](#).

## PUBLIC PAPERS RECENTLY ADOPTED

- UNICE comments on the European Commission's proposal for a Directive on [market access to port services](#)
- UNICE comments on the European Commission's White Paper on the review of Regulation 4056/86, [applying EC competition rules to maritime transport](#)
- UNICE Comments on the proposal for a [7th EU framework programme for research, technological development and demonstration \(FP7\) - 2007 to 2013](#)
- UNICE position on EU policy regarding the [use of renewables for the generation of electricity](#)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

- Update of UNICE position on integrated product policy
- UNICE contribution on a global "sector approach" to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- UNICE comments on the review of the emissions trading directive (climate change)
- UNICE comments on the Commission "Energy efficiency" green paper
- UNICE contribution on the mid-term review of the EU 2001-2010 transport strategy

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## ENTREPRENEURSHIP & SMEs

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### UNICE SEMINAR: SME ACCESS TO FINANCE – FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING

■ UNICE is organising a high-level seminar on 27 September 2005 (13.00 – 17.00 followed by a drinks reception) bringing together CEOs from small and medium-sized companies and financial actors (investment bank, savings banks, investment funds, venture capitalists) to engage a discussion on how banks and SMEs will deal with a new regulatory environment (implementation of the Basel II accord) and how to make venture capital and SMEs meet to lead to growth and jobs.

The seminar will take place on 27 September 2005, from 13.00 – 17.00 hours in the UNICE Conference Centre, 168 Av. de Cortenbergh, Brussels, followed by a drinks reception. There will be a seminar fee of 90 Euros. Further information about the seminar will be published soon on UNICE's website. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact [Ms Nathalie Dejong](#).

The outcome of the seminar will feed into the UK Presidency Risk Capital Summit. For more information, see below.

For further information, please contact [David Coleman](#).

## UK PRESIDENCY RISK CAPITAL SUMMIT 2005 – 4-5 OCTOBER 2005

■ As part of the UK's Presidency of the European Union between 1 July and 31 December 2005, the United Kingdom and the European Commission are jointly holding a major [conference](#) to debate and make recommendations on how risk capital should support the establishment of Europe as a leader in innovation, growth and enterprise.

For further information, please contact [David Coleman](#).

## WORK IN PROGRESS

■ UNICE comments on the Commission proposal for a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 – 2013)

## PIN BOARD / EVENTS

### LDDK AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF UNICE

■ During its latest meeting in Lisbon, UNICE's Membership Committee, exercising the authority delegated to it by the Council of Presidents, decided to accept the candidacy of the LDDK (Latvia) for associate membership, and



integrate the Latvian federation from 1 July 2005. As a result of this decision UNICE no longer has any observers at the moment, but has a total of 39 members coming from 33 countries.

For further information, please visit [www.lddk.lv](http://www.lddk.lv).

### CHALLENGES FOR THE LISBON AGENDA: CONVERGENCE AND COMPETITIVENESS IN EASTERN EUROPE – THE CASE OF HUNGARY

■ The Confederation of Hungarian Employers and Industrialists in cooperation with ICEG European Centre organises an event entitled "Challenges for the Lisbon Agenda: convergence and competitiveness in Eastern Europe – The case of Hungary" on 22 September 2005 in Brussels.

Participants will discuss competitiveness as Europe's top priority, effects of enlargement on Hungary's convergence and competitiveness, challenges and opportunities for increased competitiveness.



For further information, please contact [MGYOSZ office in Brussels](#).

## THE VOICE OF BUSINESS IN EUROPE

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## “ACHIEVING GROWTH THROUGH STRATEGIC INNOVATION”

■ Agoria, the Belgian multisector federation for the technology industry, and the MIT Industrial Liaison Program are jointly organising a conference “[Achieving growth through strategic innovation](#)” on 13-15 November 2005 in Brussels.

This conference will provide an important forum for European business leaders and government authorities to



discuss innovation policy and to review approaches to fostering innovation at the national, regional and organisational level. MIT faculty and industry speakers will focus on current and future innovation mechanisms, evaluate measures designed to support innovation, and present specific innovation opportunities for an ageing population.

For further information, please contact [Dirk De Moor](#) (Agoria) or [Marie-Teresa Vander Sande](#) (MIT/ILP).

## EU-CHINA AND EU-INDIA BUSINESS SUMMITS

■ The [EU-China](#) and EU-India business summits will take place in Beijing on 5 September and in New Delhi on 7 September, with the participation of political and business leaders from China, India and the EU.

For further information, please contact [UNICE International Relations Department](#).

### Your OPINION?

Your comments and/or suggestions are welcome.

Please do not hesitate to e-mail them to our Communication Department at <mailto:unice.news@unice.be>.

For more information about UNICE and its member federations, consult UNICE's website at [www.unice.org](http://www.unice.org).