



UNICE PRESIDENT MEETS WOLFGANG SCHÜSSEL: “THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE”

On 17 January in Vienna, heading a UNICE-IV delegation, UNICE President Ernest-Antoine Seillière met Chancellor Wolfgang Schäuble, President of the European Council, to voice European business expectations from the Austrian Presidency. On behalf of the whole European business Community, he called on Chancellor Schäuble to “seize the window of opportunity created by an improving political and economic climate to tackle the EU’s most important challenges”. [Read more](#) or contact: [Philippe de Buck](#)

PORT SERVICES SERVE UP A STORM ONCE AGAIN

Commenting in advance of this week’s heated EP vote on Market Access to Port Services, UNICE Secretary General Philippe de Buck has robustly urged MEPs to amend and approve the Commission’s proposals. “Improved efficiency in the services provided and the way ports are managed and run is both what is required and an important element needed for efficiently tackling the EU’s ever growing transport needs” he has said. Contact: [Vincent McGovern](#)

EU-INDIA: LOOKING AHEAD FOR INCREASED BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

With a view to the EU-India talks on a new bilateral trade and investment framework, UNICE’s Secretary General Philippe de Buck, together with the UNICE International Relations team, met the Indian Ambassador to the EU, Mr Chatterjee, on 13 January. He underlined the scope for huge expansion of EU-India economic relations to ensure concrete results for EU and Indian companies. Contact: [Carlos Gonzalez-Finat](#)

“CLEAN, CLEVER AND COMPETITIVE” GROUP FINALISES ITS REPORT

On 17 January a multi-stakeholder group created in 2004 finalised its recommendations for dissemination of eco-efficient innovations on markets for domestic, industrial and public customers, and for improving competitiveness through eco-efficient innovations. In this closing meeting, Mr Fabrizio d’Adda, Chairman of UNICE’s Industrial Affairs Committee, urged that future strategies promoting eco-efficient innovation should be in line with the philosophy of sustainable development. He warned against development of a simplistic approach to green procurement and economic instruments. Contact: [Daniel Cloquet](#)



UNICE MEETS COMMISSION'S LISBON TASK FORCE

Next week, the Commission will present its Annual Progress Report on the Lisbon Strategy. On Wednesday 18 January, Michel Servoz and Gerrit de Graaf of the European Commission, responsible for the Commission's "Lisbon Task Force" which is drafting the Commission Report, discussed with UNICE's Competitiveness Working Group the state of play of the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs as well as this year's priorities for the Spring Summit. Contact: [Folker Franz](#)

UNICE SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE DISCUSSED EU SOCIAL DIALOGUE WORK PROGRAMME 2006-08

The European social partners are negotiating a new work programme for the EU social dialogue. UNICE's Social Affairs Committee met on 13 January 2006, notably to discuss how to reply to ETUC's new suggestions of three possible topics for negotiations. UNICE's aim is to ensure that social partners joint work contributes to improving European growth and jobs prospects. The next discussion with ETUC is scheduled for 25 January 2006. The work programme should be presented before the European Spring Council on 22 March 2006. Contact: [Thérèse de Liedekerke](#) or [Jeanne Schmitt](#)

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF UNICE IN COMMISSION IPPC ADVISORY GROUP

On 13 January DG Environment launched the first meeting of the IPPC Advisory Group, which will support the Commission in the preparation of the review of the IPPC (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) Directive scheduled in 2007. UNICE is member of this Group, where it is represented by [Nadine Toscani](#), who will coordinate industry's input. Main task is the supervision of six studies looking in particular at IPPC impacts on competitiveness and environmental benefits.

WHY DO COMPANIES CARE ABOUT EUROPE?

We will try to answer this question on **UNICE Day 2006**, which we are organising on 17 October 2006 in Brussels. Note the date in your diary now and join hundreds of business leaders in demonstrating for competitiveness in Brussels and urging policy-makers to improve competitiveness conditions for companies in Europe.