

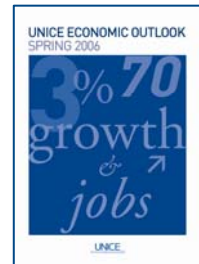


UNICE PRESENTS BUSINESS MESSAGE TO THE EUROPEAN SPRING SUMMIT

One week ahead of the Spring Summit, UNICE calls the European Council to urgently implement the reforms for growth and jobs, resist protectionism within Europe, better communicate the benefits of globalisation and solve the EU's institutional crisis. UNICE puts forward six policy priorities for the Spring Summit on 23-24 March: implementing national reform programmes, recommitting to the Internal Market, devising a European energy strategy, strengthening the link between research and innovation, unlocking Europe's SME potential, and improving people's employment opportunities. Contact: [Folker Franz](#)

UNICE'S KEY RECOMMENDATIONS TO RESTORE GROWTH AND CONFIDENCE ACROSS EUROPE

On 13 March, the Spring 2006 Economic Outlook was presented to the press by UNICE President Seillière and Jean-Paul Betbèze, Chairman of UNICE's Economic and Financial Affairs Committee. The report identifies key policy priorities to consolidate what appears to be a fragile economic recovery in Europe. First, governments will need to make more efforts to restore the sustainability of public finances. Second, the ECB should put its tightening cycle on hold until there are clearer signs of a sustained upturn or of significant inflationary pressures developing. Third, businesses need a strong signal from the European Summit later this month that Europe will enter a phase of implementation of the Lisbon strategy. Mr Seillière transmitted these [key policy messages](#) to European policy stakeholders during the meeting of the macroeconomic dialogue, also held on 13 March. [Read more](#) or contact: [Marc Stocker](#)



PRESIDENT SEILLIÈRE MEETS US AMBASSADOR TO THE EU, MR BOYDEN GRAY

UNICE President Ernest-Antoine Seillière and Secretary General Philippe de Buck met Ambassador Boyden Gray on 13 March to reiterate the importance UNICE attaches to the Transatlantic relationship and present its activities in this field. They discussed several key economic issues, and notably Transatlantic regulatory cooperation, which should be based on principles of better regulation for competitiveness. EU and US regulators should take account of the Transatlantic economic dimension when adopting or amending regulations. Contact: [Adrian van den Hoven](#)





WTO NEGOTIATIONS: EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS CALL FOR MORE AMBITION

UNICE and its American partner NAM had a joint meeting with the EU and US WTO Ambassadors on 14 March to push for ambitious industrial market access negotiations in the Doha Development Agenda. UNICE and NAM support a strong formula and sectoral negotiations for willing sectors as the best approach to achieve real cuts in applied tariffs in OECD and emerging countries. They also demand more progress on non-tariff barriers. Contact: [Adrian van den Hoven](#)

PRESIDENT SEILLIÈRE AT ETTK CONFERENCE "KITE FLY 2006"

On 10 March, UNICE President Ernest-Antoine Seillière paid a visit to the Estonian Employers' Federation ETTK to take part in its annual conference "Kite Fly 2006". In front of a large audience of Estonian policy-makers and business representatives, President Seillière presented UNICE messages on important current European dossiers such as the services directive and the upcoming Spring Summit. He also had the opportunity to have a bilateral meeting with the Estonian Prime Minister, Mr Andrus Ansip, to discuss the current European situation. [Read more](#) or contact: [María Soriano Sánchez](#)

ALLIANCE FOR A COMPETITIVE EUROPEAN INDUSTRY INSISTS ON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

On 15 March at a meeting between the Alliance for a Competitive European Industry and Catherine Day, Secretary General of the Commission's Secretariat General, UNICE Secretary General Philippe de Buck took the opportunity to stress the importance of efficient, transparent, consistent and credible impact assessments of legislative proposals for their potential impact on Europe's competitiveness. Great progress has been made in this area but quality control and independence should be enhanced. Contact: [Erik Berggren](#)

UNICE CALLS FOR A FIRM COMMITMENT TO SECURE A MEANINGFUL SERVICES DIRECTIVE

On 9 March, a dinner was held by the Austrian Presidency, the Commission and European social partners. There was a good atmosphere during the dinner, attended by UNICE Secretary General Philippe de Buck, accompanied by Markus Beyrer, Director General of the Austrian Federation of Industry IV and Hans Werner Müller, Secretary General of UEAPME. UNICE strongly presented its views on the Parliamentary changes to the services directive, urging the Commission to improve the legal quality and clarify provisions, particularly article 16 and those concerning labour law and industrial action. Contact: [Carlos Almaraz](#)

A STRONG TEAM COMMITTED TO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

We are pleased to announce that, with a view to ensuring the continuity of the work of Research and Technological Innovation working group, Mrs Joke van den Bandt, currently vice-chair of the working group, will replace the outgoing Chairman Horst Soboll. To support her in this task, Dietmar Theis representing the Federation of German Industries BDI and Gerhard Rimer representing the Federation of Austrian Industry IV are appointed vice-chairs of the working group. Contact: [Vincent McGovern](#)