



Wednesday, 10 May 2006

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### **PRESIDENT SEILLIÈRE VISIT TO WARSAW**

At the same time as the European Union is celebrating the second anniversary of the largest ever enlargement, Ernest-Antoine Seillière, UNICE President, accepted the invitation of Henryka Bochniarz, President of the Polish Confederation of Private Employers [PKPP Lewiatan](#) to take part in Warsaw on 9 May in a panel discussion on the “Economic Perspectives for Europe”. Moderated by Mr Dariusz Kajetan Rosati, Member of the European Parliament, and with the participation, among other relevant speakers, of Mrs Dalia Grybauskaitė, European Commissioner responsible for Financial Programming and Budget, President Seillière voiced the business community’s message on the economic prospects for European companies. Furthermore, President Seillière accepted the invitation of PKPP to attend the Lewiatan Annual Awards Gala. Complete press coverage including interviews with the Polish press concluded this interesting visit. [Read more](#) or contact: [Philippe de Buck](#)

### **THE FUTURE OF EUROPE MUST BE DECIDED, NOT JUST TALKED ABOUT**

UNICE, the Confederation of European Business, reacted today to the Commission communication on “Future of Europe”, which is intended to launch a debate on Europe’s future at the June European Council. To boost Europe, the following questions should be addressed through concrete actions: reforms for growth and jobs, integration of European markets, enlargement of the EU which must be considered as an opportunity rather than a threat, efficient governance of the EU. If it is important that the Commission initiates this debate, more important will be the concrete decisions which will be taken at the European Council on 15-16 June 2006. If the interest of this process is to delay efficient decisions, this will create even more resistance vis-à-vis Europe. [Read more](#) or contact: [Maria Fernanda Fau](#)

### **A MORE ASSERTIVE BUSINESS VOICE IN PREPARATION**

UNICE’s Executive Committee, i.e. member federations’ Directors General, met on 4 May 2006 to monitor a number of priority dossiers. Reactions to the Commission’s revised text on the **services** directive were debated, and it was agreed to keep contacts with key personnel in the European Parliament and national governments, supporting those seeking real liberalisation, and trying to convince the others. In considering the role of the High-Level Group on Competitiveness, Energy and the Environment, the Committee confirmed its commitment to genuine liberalisation of the **energy** market, currently often characterised by monopolies, bundling, etc., and not functioning as it should. Security of supply, stable prices, and a competitive market should combine to produce cheaper energy and an increase in European industrial competitiveness. These decisions were informed by the conclusions of the special meeting of UNICE’s Presidents in early April, which determined that UNICE’s communications effort should be faster, more assertive, and far more integrated with the communications of its members at national level. Contact: [Carlos Almaraz](#) on services, or [Daniel Cloquet](#) on energy.



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### REACH SOON TO BE BACK IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

UNICE is picking up its advocacy activities towards the European Parliament. After a sometimes bruising campaign by NGOs during the first reading, we are explaining our position to key MEPs for them to be able to make an informed decision prior to the second reading, foreseen for autumn. In particular, the issue of registration was well dealt with by the EP last year, but has been watered down by the Council. Contact: [Nadine Toscani](#)

### UNICE INSISTS ON HARMONISED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WTO ANTI-DUMPING AGREEMENT

UNICE reacted to a recent evaluation of EU Trade Defence Policy by outlining its recommendations for improvements to the Director General of DG Trade. In this field, UNICE is actively calling on the EU to secure a balanced approach from other major trading partners in the Rules negotiations in the DDA by ensuring the harmonised implementation of the WTO Anti-dumping Agreement. At the same time, European industry is confronted with considerable trade distortions and market disruption that could threaten the viability of a growing number of manufacturing sectors. Therefore, UNICE is committed to maintaining a firm but balanced approach in trade defence policy in the future. [Read more](#) or contact: [Adrian van den Hoven](#)

### THE ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF CE MARKING

In the context of the European Commission's ongoing revision of the New Approach, UNICE has provided comments on the role and significance of CE marking. These comments stress the importance of CE marking for the proper functioning of the Internal Market as the mandatory affixing of CE marking to a product is the final step in a comprehensive procedure which verifies the conformity of a product to the essential requirements of the appropriate European directives. They also stress the need for responsibility, efficient market surveillance and enforcement and effective communication of its value if CE marking is to continue to do the job it was intended to do. [Read more](#) or contact: [Vincent McGovern](#)

### THE EUROPEAN COMPANY STATUTE: A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE?

On 31 May 2006, UNICE is organising a seminar on the European company statute (*societas europaea* or SE). Join high-level representatives from the EU Commission, companies, the European Parliament and legal experts to find out directly from market players why they have chosen to adopt the statute (or not) and what are the decisive advantages that could make the SE statute the right choice for them. Is the SE statute the appropriate tool for strengthening European business competitiveness? Is the SE statute an option for SMEs? If not, what should be the alternative? [Read more](#) or contact: [David Coleman](#)