



Wednesday, 14 June 2006

No. 2006-22

UNICE PRESIDENT URGES EUROPEAN SUMMIT TO SOLVE GOVERNANCE MESS

Writing to Chancellor Wolfgang Schäussel, current President of the EU, UNICE President Seillière has called on European leaders to take decisions to put Europe back on track, not least by addressing the governance issues that have been on hold since last year. The timetable for this must be as short as possible. This message was endorsed by the Presidents of all UNICE member federations at a recent meeting in Vienna. Other concerns covered in the letter are the economic outlook, the DDA negotiations, free movement of services and energy. Contact: [Philippe de Buck](#)

SPECIAL ENTREPRENEUR AND SME MEETING AT UNICE: LET SMES GROW!

On 12 June, entrepreneurs and representatives from federations met to discuss UNICE's priorities for SMEs and entrepreneurship, and actions needed to foster SME growth in Europe. The discussion at UNICE echoed the "SME day" organised at the same moment by DG Enterprise. Participants called on policy-makers to focus in particular on: coordinated EU policies to foster SME growth and entrepreneurship and coherent implementation of the "think small first principle"; better regulation and reduction of red tape; less obstructive taxation; increased labour market flexibility; easier access to finance, including innovation financing; increased efforts to narrow the skills gap; creation of a European Private Company Statute; progress in the area of intellectual property rights and a more energetic fight against counterfeiting. Contact: [Natascha Waltke](#)

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS CAN AND MUST BE IMPROVED

UNICE President Ernest-Antoine Seillière has written to Commission President José Manuel Barroso to highlight some specific aspects of impact assessments which would help further in increasing the effectiveness and credibility of this important tool for better regulation. For example, the impact assessment guidelines should be fully and consistently implemented, as well as a common methodology for measuring all regulatory costs; impact assessments should always be forwarded to national parliaments to involve them more in activities of the EU; stakeholders should be given an opportunity to comment on an impact assessment before it is finalised. [Read more](#) or contact: [Erik Berggren](#)

UNICE DAY, 17 OCTOBER 2006 – HAVE A LOOK AT THE PROGRAMME AND REGISTER!





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HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK: SIMPLER, UNDERSTANDABLE, CONSISTENT MEASURES

In a letter addressed to Nikolaus van der Pas, Director-General of DG Employment, UNICE provided information on social partners' contributions to implementation of the current Community strategy for health and safety at work. UNICE also highlighted its priorities for the future Community health and safety strategy for 2007-2012: making what exists work better rather than increasing complexity; achieving more simple, understandable and consistent EU occupational health and safety legislation; building on a variety of players and instruments, and particularly non-legislative measures and tools, to achieve a better understanding of requirements and support implementation of the *acquis*; creating a wider prevention culture, by putting a stronger focus on education and training policies. [Read more](#) or contact: [Natascha Waltke](#)

UNICE CALLS FOR BETTER CONTROL OF *DE MINIMIS* STATE AID

UNICE Secretary General Philippe de Buck has written to Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes to highlight the need for appropriate tools to ensure that the grant of *de minimis* state aid is made more transparent and that abuse is avoided. UNICE also makes concrete recommendations to improve transparency and control. [Read more](#) or contact: [Erik Berggren](#)

MORE TRANSPARENCY IN THE INTERPRETATION OF INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

On 9 June, representatives of the UNICE Accounting Harmonisation Working Group met a high-level delegation of the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC), the body which interprets International Accounting Standards and is affiliated to IASB in London. The IFRIC Chairman, Mr Bob Garnett, responded to UNICE's concerns about a lack of transparency in his committee. He announced that, from July, the IFRIC meetings will be broadcast on the web. There was also a constructive discussion on how to avoid misuse of IFRIC's wordings for rejection, as well as on how to improve transparency of the IFRIC agenda committee, which currently meets in private and consists solely of representatives from the audit profession. Contact: [Folker Franz](#)

EUROPEAN BUSINESS EXPERTS DISCUSS IMPACT OF TAXATION ON EUROPEAN LABOUR MARKETS

On 2 June, UNICE's Economic and Financial Affairs Committee invited leading economists to reflect on "taxation systems and the employment challenge in Europe". Professor Saint-Etienne from the council of advisers to the French prime minister, Mr Andersson, Chairman of UNICE's Fiscal Affairs Working Group and Mr Nicodème, associate professor and economist at the European Commission, discussed with experts from national business federations how tax reforms can help solve labour market difficulties in Europe. During the seminar, tax competition, globalisation and ageing were viewed as key challenges justifying shifts in the tax structure in order to raise employment rates in Europe. Contact: [Marc Stocker](#)

NEW CONTACTS IN UNICE

We have the pleasure to announce that Mr [Steven D'Haeseleer](#) joined the Social Affairs Department on 12 June April as an Adviser. He will deal with issues linked to social protection, immigration and employment. In the Legal Affairs Department, Ms [Marta Alegrias](#) starts on 15 June as an Adviser, dealing with company law and corporate governance.