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UNICE IN WASHINGTON DC TO STRENGTHEN TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP

On 14-16 June, UNICE President Ernest-Antoine Seillière led a mission to Washington focusing on international trade and investment, regulatory convergence – including corporate governance, cooperation on IPR, energy security and efficiency and the impact of security on international trade and investment. In addition to meeting with business partners like the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the US Chamber of Commerce, the Business Roundtable, the Organization for International Investment, and the American Business Coalition for Doha (ABCD), the UNICE delegation met Administration leaders at Commerce, US Trade Representative, Homeland Security, Treasury, the Securities and Exchange Commission, White House economic and environment advisors and key Congressional leaders. While on mission, the Confederation of European Business sent a joint [UNICE-NAM letter](#) on the WTO DDA negotiations to Presidents Bush, Schüssel and Barroso and adopted a [joint statement on WTO negotiations with ABCD](#). Contact: [Adrian van den Hoven](#)

UNICE AND US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALL FOR COMMERCIAL FOCUS AT EU-US SUMMIT

At the EU-US Summit on 21 June in Vienna, leaders of UNICE and the US Chamber of Commerce released a statement calling for recognition of the magnitude of the transatlantic economy and the need for European and US political leaders to focus on EU-US commercial relations. Supporting the work of the Transatlantic Business Dialogue, leaders called for progress on regulatory cooperation, intellectual property rights enforcement, the investment climate, competition, the legal environment and of course the WTO Doha Development Agenda. [Read more](#) or contact: [Eoin O'Malley](#)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL REGRETTABLY POSTPONES DECISIONS ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

At the European Council held last week, EU leaders took the decision to decide later on how to solve the current European governance confusion: the German Presidency in 2007 will draw up a report on how to proceed with the Constitutional Treaty, which was rejected by referendums in France and the Netherlands. Conclusions of this report will have to be drawn by end-2008. UNICE deplors this lack of urgency. Furthermore, the issues on which the EU needs to move forward urgently, such as energy or the growth and jobs agenda, have been largely waved through to be dealt with at a later stage. The final decision on letting Bulgaria and Romania join the EU in 2007 will also be taken in autumn only. As a result, the 38-page-conclusions are a list of mainly good, albeit not very substantial, intentions. Contact: [Folker Franz](#)



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ENERGY AND TRANSPORT – PHILIPPE DE BUCK SETS OUT CHALLENGES FOR EU ENERGY POLICY

On 20 June DG Transport and Environment organised “TREN Day” at Autoworld in Brussels to present its activities and hear the views of stakeholders. In a discussion panel on “Energy and transport from now until 2030 – Challenges and innovations to expect”, which also included Commissioners Piebalgs and Barrot as well as John Monks (ETUC), Philippe de Buck described the approaches needed to facilitate establishment of a secure, competitive and sustainable energy supply. Contact: [Daniel Cloquet](#) on energy and [Vincent McGovern](#) on transport

MORE EFFICIENT AND LESS BURDENSOME EXPORT CONTROLS ON DUAL-USE GOODS

As the European Commission prepares to update the Community export controls regime, UNICE has stated, in a position paper released on 21 June, that it supports a broad assessment addressing a far-reaching reform of export controls policy, in close coordination with the business community. Key issues are increased transparency, greater use of authorisation granted at EU level, methods for controlling intangible technology transfers and the relationship between companies’ own internal programmes for compliance and the licensing regime. [Read more](#) or contact: [Eoin O’Malley](#)

UNICE MEETS MEPS TO DISCUSS TAX COMPETITION IN THE EU

On 20 June, the European Ideas Network (EIN) - a think-tank sponsored by EPP-ED - invited Senior Adviser Marc Stocker to discuss tax competition and the internal market with experts and MEPs. During the debate chaired by MEP and EIN President James Elles, it was emphasised that it is the cost for companies of complying with 25 tax systems that is a major brake on market integration in Europe, not the legitimate coexistence of different tax rates across countries. Actions should be taken on both corporate taxation and VAT systems to radically cut back administrative and compliance costs. Contact: [Marc Stocker](#)

ROLE OF EUROPEAN COMPANIES IN PROMOTING OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AROUND THE WORLD

The International Congress on Occupational Health held a series of conferences in Milan from 12 to 16 June, marking the 100th anniversary of its creation. On this occasion, Daniel Cloquet, Director of UNICE Industrial Affairs Department, illustrated the role that large industrial projects in the world can play in transfer of European companies’ best practices in the area of occupational health to countries in transition and less developed countries. Moreover, these projects are an important element to help meet the medical needs of local communities. International climate protection projects (set up under the aegis of the UN’s Clean Development Mechanism or Joint Implementation for example) can have very positive effects in this respect. Policy prerequisites for encouraging such projects were listed. Contact: [Daniel Cloquet](#)