



Thursday, 6 July 2006

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UNICE SUPPORTS PRIORITIES OF THE FINNISH EU PRESIDENCY

In the first week of the new Finnish Presidency of the European Union, UNICE President Seillière paid a visit to Helsinki on 6 July, to present European business expectations for the next six months. Accompanied by Christoffer Taxell, President of the Confederation of Finnish Industries – EK, Leif Fagernäs, EK Secretary General, and UNICE Secretary General Philippe de Buck, he had a meeting with Minister for Trade and Industry and President of the Competitiveness Council, Mr [Mauri Pekkarinen](#), with a fruitful discussion on UNICE expectations from this Council formation on important dossiers such as innovation and research, REACH and better regulation. Furthermore, meeting Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen, UNICE President Seillière gave his support for the priorities of the Finnish Presidency, uppermost of which are “the future of Europe” and “competitiveness”. For the full story: [read more](#) or contact: [Folker Franz](#) or [María Soriano Sánchez](#), or [Vincent McGovern](#) on research and innovation

WTO: EU AND JAPANESE BUSINESS URGE FOR AMBITIOUS RESULTS

With the failure of the WTO Ministerial in Geneva last week and the crucial end-of-July deadlines rapidly approaching, UNICE, the Confederation of European business, and the Japanese business organisation Nippon Keidanren are concerned about the slow progress achieved since the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial. In a joint statement, they urge WTO members to exercise the political leadership needed to achieve successful and ambitious results in the negotiations before the end of 2006. The support of business in the EU and Japan for the DDA is conditional to achieving significant new commercial opportunities in non-agricultural market access (NAMA) and services. [Read more](#) or contact: [Carlos Gonzalez-Finat](#)

EUROPEAN BUSINESS MEETS CATHERINE DAY TO INSIST ON BETTER REGULATION

On 28 June, 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 continuing progress in the area of better regulation. In particular, efficient, consistent and credible impact assessments of legislative proposals for their potential impact on Europe’s competitiveness and concrete reductions of administrative costs are crucial. Contact: [Erik Berggren](#)

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



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REACH SOON TO BE BACK IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European parliament will begin its second reading on REACH in September, with the aim of having the second reading completed in plenary during the Finnish Presidency. UNICE has been picking up its advocacy activities and we are explaining our position to key MEPs for them to be able to make an informed decision. In particular, the issue of authorisation raises major concerns in all parts of industry. [Read more](#) or contact: [Nadine Toscani](#)

THE EUROPEAN SERVICES PLATFORM FOR MORE COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

Internal market issues on services are increasingly important in the EU and also have a strong impact on external-related aspects. Hence, more comprehensive information is becoming indispensable for all trade organisations dealing with services. UNICE and ESF decided to join forces in November 2005 and have created the European Services Platform (ESP). The ESP is an informal platform for exchanging information on horizontal services issues and facilitating analysis of ongoing services-related debates such as the directive on services in the internal market. ESP has already met three times this year. Contact: [Pascal Kerneis](#) in ESF or [Carlos Almaraz](#) in UNICE

THE TRUTH ABOUT RELOCATION

At a conference on "Relocation – challenges and opportunities" organised by the European Economic and Social Committee on 29 June, taking part in a panel discussion with, among other speakers, Mr John Monks, ETUC Secretary General, UNICE Secretary General Philippe de Buck underlined that the highly mediated phenomenon of companies moving their production to places where labour is less expensive also offers many benefits, which are often overlooked: for example, products and services become cheaper for consumers everywhere, and developing countries become richer and thus more important trading partners. Contrary to common belief, a relocating country is often better off after relocation, if its economic structure is sufficiently flexible to allow displaced workers to find work quickly in more productive sectors. Everybody in Europe can win from relocation - or, more generally, globalisation - if our economy is open and flexible enough. [Read more](#) or contact: [Folker Franz](#)

COMPETITIVENESS PRIORITIES MUST BE AT THE HEART OF TERRITORIAL COHESION POLICY

In the EU Stakeholders Conference on Territorial Cohesion and the Lisbon Strategy, organised by the Dutch Housing Ministry in Amsterdam, Jean-Paul Mingasson, UNICE's General Adviser, pointed out that the integration of competitiveness priorities within territorial cohesion policy is essential. The business community welcomes the earmarking for competitiveness-enhancing expenditure contemplated in the cohesion policy and urges for its effective implementation. Mr Mingasson also stressed the importance of the partnership between regional authorities and social partners in project management. [Read more](#) or contact: [Eva Maria Revilla](#)



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EUROPEAN SOCIAL PARTNERS: FINAL CONFERENCE ON RESTRUCTURING IN THE NEW MEMBER STATES

150 employer and trade union representatives from all over Europe met in Brussels on 26 and 27 June to discuss restructuring in the new Member States. The study analysing current economic and labour market challenges for EU10 as well as the actions taken by social partners to anticipate and manage change finalised during the seminar will be published in the coming weeks. Given the success of this joint project of the EU social partners, it will be extended to the 15 remaining EU Member States. Contact: [Jeanne Schmitt](#) or [Matthew Higham](#)

USERS MEET IN ALICANTE TO DISCUSS TRADEMARK AND DESIGN ISSUES

On 3 July 2006 UNICE participated in the regular meeting of the OHIM users' group in Alicante with other organisations representing users of trademark and design rights to discuss trademark- and design-related issues. UNICE was represented by Gerhard Bauer from DaimlerChrysler and Ilias Konteas, UNICE Legal Affairs Adviser. OHIM informed participants about the results of the users' satisfaction survey conducted in 2005 and its impact on the Office's future policy as well as about the status of its various e-projects to facilitate proceedings for applicants with increased use of information technologies. The importance of improving the speed and the quality of the processes was stressed. Contact: [Ilias Konteas](#)

SOLUTIONS FOR A EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE, COMPETITIVE AND SECURE ENERGY

In a [letter](#) sent to Commissioner Piebalgs, UNICE has expressed its generally positive assessment of the impetus that the green paper gives to moving forward EU action in the following areas: internal energy market, security of supply, combating climate change according to an integrated approach, innovation and external energy policy. UNICE underlines that greater urgency needs to be given to seeking out solutions to short-term problems such as improving the functioning of energy markets and facilitating access to cost-effective energy prices for energy-intensive industries. [Read more](#) or contact: [Daniel Cloquet](#)