



Wednesday, 19 July 2006

No. 2006-27

UNICE IN TOKYO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EU-JAPAN BUSINESS DIALOGUE ROUND TABLE

UNICE's Secretary General Philippe de Buck participated in the plenary conference of the EU-Japan Business Dialogue Round Table in Tokyo on 13-14 July. The conference was chaired by Georges Jacobs and Yotaro Kobayashi and, on that occasion, the European Commission was represented by its Vice-President Günter Verheugen. Philippe de Buck presented the state of play and business demands on the WTO negotiations and also spoke on energy. A [press release](#) and [joint business recommendations](#) were adopted at the conference to be sent to the European Commission and the Japanese government. Contact: [Carlos Gonzalez-Finat](#)

EUROPEAN SERVICES FORUM & UNICE JOIN IN SERVICE INDUSTRY PUSH FOR SUCCESSFUL DDA

The European Services Forum and UNICE participated in a Global Services Coalition delegation to WTO headquarters in Geneva on 11-13 July. The delegation – the largest ever by the Coalition with 42 representatives of services industries from the EU, US, Brazil, Japan, Canada, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei and Switzerland – stressed the importance of meaningful liberalisation of trade in services for a successful Doha Round and the global economy in general. The Coalition called on the leaders of WTO members meeting in the context of the G8 meeting to unlock the DDA as time was running out for services. Since the visit, the G8 meeting has resulted in key WTO members instructing their negotiators to find an agreement within one month. Following the St. Petersburg session, WTO Director General Pascal Lamy led an emergency meeting of trade ministers of the six major WTO players, who agreed to engage in intensive negotiation over the coming weeks culminating in two meetings on 23-24 July and 28-29 July with the aim of concluding the modalities discussions by mid-August. [Read more](#) or contact: [Eoin O'Malley](#)

THE EU'S SUPPORT INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

Jean Paul Mingasson, UNICE's General Adviser, addressed the 2nd Restructuring Forum organised by the Commission on 18 July. A renewed industrial policy, promoting change and innovation in both their horizontal and sectoral dimensions, can support restructuring in advance of change. Structural Funds should be used to enhance competitiveness. The Globalisation Fund is an "*a posteriori* crisis fund" and should not be considered as a substitute for the reforms needed on labour markets. UNICE participates in the EU interprofessional social dialogue with the aim of constructively overcoming difficulties. [Read more](#) or contact: [Eva Maria Revilla](#)

EU-ASIA: STRENGTHENING BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS

The Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK), with UNICE's support, is organising the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF) and the EU-China Business Summit in Helsinki on 10-11 and 12 September respectively. These events provide a major opportunity for the EU and Asian political and business leaders to interact, and to address key trade and economic matters. Business leaders will gather to present recommendations on how to promote trade and bilateral investments, industrial co-operation and improve market access and the business environment. Visit [EK's website](#) or [AEBF website](#), or contact: [Carlos Gonzalez-Finat](#)



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UNICE ASKS FOR CONSISTENT AND EFFICIENT ENFORCEMENT OF PATENTS IN EUROPE

In an address to a Commission hearing on 12 July 2006 on a future patent policy in Europe, Klaus-Dieter Langfinger, Chairman of UNICE's "Patents" Working Group reiterated the need for a reliable litigation system providing consistent and efficient enforcement of patents in Europe. The European Patent Litigation Agreement (EPLA) provides an important step in the right direction, and policy-makers should focus their efforts on its positive conclusion. In addition, reducing the costs of the system is crucial for users. Therefore, the London agreement, which substantially decreases translation costs for patents in Europe, should be ratified and enter into force in the shortest possible time. [Read more](#) or contact: [Ilias Konteas](#)

SHOULD THERE BE A REFORM OF EU POLICY FOR TRADE DEFENCE INSTRUMENTS?

Adrian van den Hoven, Director for International Relations, represented UNICE at an experts meeting on Trade Defence Instruments (TDI) policy with the EU Trade Commissioner, Peter Mandelson, on 11 July. The experts group brought together representatives from industry and retail, economists, law professors, lawyers and a former Pakistani ambassador to discuss possible reforms to EU TDI regulations. A clear point of contention at the meeting concerned the positive/negative impact of safeguard, anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures on jobs and on consumers in the EU. From a more technical perspective, the experts exchanged views on the standing of community industry in TDI cases, the EU Community Interest test and WTO negotiations on rules. The Trade Commissioner plans to organise a seminar for TDI stakeholders in the Autumn to determine whether a reform of EU TDI policy should be pursued. Contact: [Adrian van den Hoven](#)

ALLIANCE FOR A COMPETITIVE EUROPEAN INDUSTRY ORGANISES A SEMINAR ON INDUSTRIAL POLICY

The Alliance for a Competitive European Industry – of which UNICE is a leading member – is organising a seminar entitled "The new European industrial policy: from commitment to results" in Brussels on the morning of 15 September. It will bring together a large public of decision-makers in the Council's Charlemagne Conference Centre, including Commission Vice-President Verheugen, MEPs, personalities from industry and other stakeholders. The seminar will focus on the two following themes: (1) creating the right business framework in the single market, and (2) industrial policy as a tool to face the challenges of the global market. An important date to note in your diary. More info about the programme and registration will be included on UNICE website in the next few weeks. Contact: [Daniel Cloquet](#)

UNICE HEADLINES: SUMMER BREAK

We would like to inform our readers that there will be no "UNICE Headlines" during summer break. Our next number will be published on Wednesday 13 September 2006.