



Wednesday, 13 September 2006

No. 2006-28

ERNEST-ANTOINE SEILLIÈRE ON *DOES EUROPE REALLY MEAN BUSINESS?*

On 12 September, at a conference organised by *Financial Times*, Ernest-Antoine Seillière debated the theme “Does Europe really mean business?” José Manuel Barroso outlined the objectives of the European Commission. Speaking on behalf of European business, the President of UNICE explained that enterprises in Europe have a choice about whether or not to stay in Europe. At present, in spite of the political drift in the EU, business believes in Europe. Ernest-Antoine Seillière also made the case for reforms leading to growth and jobs, an efficiently governed Europe, and an enlarged Europe making the best of the internal market. [Read more](#) or contact: [Maria Fernanda Fau](#)

PRESIDENT SEILLIÈRE MEETS FINNISH AMBASSADOR KOSONEN

Also on 12 September UNICE President Ernest-Antoine Seillière, UNICE Secretary General Philippe de Buck and EK (Confederation of Finnish Industries) Permanent Delegate Ulla Sirkeinen had a meeting with Finnish Ambassador Eikka Kosonen to convey to him European business priorities for the Finnish Presidency, as they had done during a previous visit to Helsinki in July to Prime Minister Vanhanen. UNICE presented to the Finnish Ambassador business expectations for the main items on the Finnish agenda such as the future of Europe, completion of the internal market, innovation and research, energy and climate change, REACH, EU external relations, and employment and social policy. Furthermore they had the occasion to look at the agenda of the next informal meeting of Heads of State and Government and the Tripartite Social Summit to take place in Lahti in October. [Read more](#) or contact: [Philippe de Buck](#)

UNICE VISIT TO THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

On 11 September, Philippe de Buck, UNICE Secretary General, and Jean-Paul Mingasson, UNICE General Adviser, met the German Ambassador to the European Union, Mr Wilhelm Schönfelder, to prepare the upcoming German Presidency. Contact: [Philippe de Buck](#)

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





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EUROPEAN SOCIAL PARTNERS WITH COMMISSION PRESIDENT

Following an invitation from Commission President Mr Barroso and Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Mr Spidla, UNICE President Ernest-Antoine Seillière and UNICE Secretary General Philippe de Buck took part in a meeting on 7 September in the presence of trade union representatives. The purpose was to discuss the state of play of the work programme of the European social dialogue. President Barroso also informed UNICE and ETUC about the main proposals to be adopted by the Commission in the next months such as a communication on demographic ageing, a green paper on labour law and a study on developments on the EU labour market. UNICE underlined that the social partners should be consulted on such a study since making a joint analysis of key labour market challenges was an important part of the European social dialogue work programme. Contact: [Philippe de Buck](#)

PRESIDENT SEILLIÈRE VISIT TO CONFINDUSTRIA

On 9 September, UNICE President, Mr Ernest-Antoine Seillière and UNICE Secretary General, Mr Philippe de Buck paid a visit to Confindustria for an in-depth discussion with President Luca Cordero di Montezemolo and Vice-President Moltrasio on the current situation in Europe and the priorities of the European business community for the coming months. In an interesting journey, UNICE President and Secretary General had lunch with the Vice-Presidents of the Italian federation followed by a meeting with Mrs Emma Bonino, former EU Commissioner and current Italian Minister for Trade and European Affairs with the purpose of looking at the European Union's external policy. Contact: [Philippe de Buck](#)

UNICE PARTICIPATES IN AEBF GATHERING WITH BUSINESS LEADERS FROM ACROSS ASIA

On 10 and 11 September 2006, UNICE participated in the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF) organised in parallel with the Asia-Europe Political Summit (ASEM) by Finnish Industries (EK) in Helsinki. AEBF called on ASEM leaders to try to salvage the WTO DDA negotiations and to cooperate on energy and delivered specific recommendations on how the two regions should cooperate on trade, investment, financial services, information and communication technology and infrastructure. Adrian van den Hoven, Director of UNICE's International Relations, gave a [presentation](#) on investment barriers in Asia. Following that presentation, AEBF agreed to work on joint business recommendations to address investment barriers in future EU-Asian trade agreements. [Read more](#) or contact: [Carlos Gonzalez-Finat](#)

MORE COOPERATION NEEDED TO FACILITATE TRADE WITH CHINA

UNICE Vice-President [Michael Treschow](#) participated in the EU-China Business Summit organised by Finnish Industries in Helsinki. He called for a strengthening of bilateral economic relations including a relaunch of WTO DDA negotiations. UNICE also raised a number of challenges in the EU-China relationship where more cooperation is needed to facilitate trade. And investment: removing investment and trade barriers, protecting intellectual property, and improving regulatory cooperation. UNICE China Network chairman Michel Bricout raised trade issues in the international trade workshop. [Read more](#) or contact: [Carlos Gonzalez-Finat](#)



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EUROPEAN BUSINESS DISCUSSES ITS PRIORITIES WITH MATTHIAS RUETE

On 7 September, a UNICE delegation led by its Secretary General Philippe de Buck met Matthias Ruete, Director General of DG Energy and Transport, to discuss energy and transport policy. Philippe de Buck outlined UNICE's overall priorities, highlighting them in an energy and transport context. This was followed by a discussion which on the energy side focused on the achievement of the internal energy market, the coming strategic energy review, the need to have objective national debates on nuclear energy, and the promotion of energy efficiency. On the transport side enhancing supply chain security, the under-funding of the Trans-European Networks, logistics and the importance and need to put transport in a Lisbon context were discussed. Contact: [Daniel Cloquet](#) on energy or [Vincent McGovern](#) on transport

UNICE OPPOSES FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES TO THE PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In the wake of the project to converge US GAAP with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), which is used by listed European companies, the IASB - which is in charge of setting the IFRS - has proposed changes to the presentation of financial statements. European business is deeply worried about the IASB's current proposals since they include first steps in eliminating the income statement as a primary financial statement. The EU should express its disagreement with these proposals as soon as possible. [Read more](#) or contact: [Folker Franz](#)