



Wednesday, 20 September 2006

No. 2006-29

### **ALLIANCE FOR A COMPETITIVE EUROPEAN INDUSTRY HOLDS AN INDUSTRIAL POLICY WORKSHOP**

On 15 September the Alliance held a [workshop](#) on the theme “The new industrial policy: from commitment to results”. As a member of the Alliance, UNICE contributed actively to its preparation. Several industrial speakers, including Mr de Buck, UNICE’s Secretary General, and Mr d’Adda, Chairman of UNICE’s Industrial Affairs Committee, described what companies expect, summarised in an Alliance [statement](#) and illustrated in greater detail in a [brochure](#) setting out specific cases. For the Commission, Vice-President Verheugen, Mr Zourek (Director-General, DG Enterprise) and Mr Jean (DG Enterprise) clarified the Commission’s future plans. Ms Herczog, MEP and Mr Chatzimarkakis, MEP presented the European Parliament’s expectations. Contact: [Daniel Cloquet](#)

### **PRESIDENT SEILLIÈRE MEETS BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR MARIA CELINA DE AZEVEDO RODRIGUES**

On 18 September, UNICE President Ernest-Antoine Seillière and International Relations Director Adrian van den Hoven met H.E. Ms Maria Celina de Azevedo Rodrigues, Ambassador of Brazil to the European Union. The meeting was the first since the Ambassador took office in late 2005. UNICE expressed its deep disappointment at the suspension of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations and the need to continue efforts to reach an ambitious conclusion of the Round. UNICE also emphasised the need for real new market access for European business through an EU-Mercosur free-trade agreement but registered its disappointment with progress in those talks to date. Contact: [Adrian van den Hoven](#)

### **EU BUSINESS IN CHINA: A WIN-WIN SITUATION**

On 14 September, UNICE’s Secretary General Philippe de Buck opened a Conference with representatives of the EU Chamber of Commerce in China led by its President, Mr Janssens de Varebeke. The meeting was a valuable opportunity for EU business to get a detailed analysis of on-the-ground conditions for European companies operating in China in sectors such as chemicals, automotive or financial services. European companies in China are generally profitable and optimistic about their future in that country. However, there are still numerous trade and investment barriers in China, including government regulation/transparency and IPR enforcement. Contact: [Carlos Gonzalez-Finat](#)

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





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### **PRESIDENT SEILLIÈRE MEETS UK MINISTER FOR EDUCATION ALAN JOHNSON**

On 12 September 2006, President Seillière met the UK Minister for higher education, Mr Alan Johnson. They discussed how better to incorporate higher education in the European growth and jobs strategy. President Seillière praised the Bologna process as a powerful tool to improve higher education in Europe but expressed doubts concerning the creation of a new Institute of Technology. He believed that the way forward was to network existing European technology institutes and universities, making them more receptive to companies' needs and facilitating the mobility of researchers. Contact: [Thérèse de Liedekerke](#)

### **EUROPEAN BUSINESS URGES THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO WRAP UP THE SERVICES DIRECTIVE**

After a long and difficult debate that lasted over two years, the discussions on the services directive seems to be coming to an end. In view of the second reading discussions by the European Parliament Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee, only lead Committee in this stage, UNICE joined forces with EuroCommerce and sent a joint letter to the Committee on 11 September advocating rapid adoption of the proposal. They urge Committee Members to take up the common position of the Council on the proposal for a directive on services as adopted on 24 July. European business considers that despite the modifications made to the Commission's proposal, the Council's text is a first step towards creation of a genuine internal market for services in the EU. Reopening the debate will put at risk the balance of interests achieved and most likely lead to inconsistent results. The draft amendments presented by the IMCO rapporteur, Mrs Gebhardt, on 13 September are of great concern to UNICE since they affect the core of the Council's common position and would unravel the compromise. [Read more](#) or contact: [Carlos Almaraz](#)

### **LOW LEVELS OF WORKER MOBILITY POINT TO POORLY FUNCTIONING LABOUR MARKETS**

On 14 September 2006, UNICE participated in a conference on [worker mobility](#) organised by the European Commission. UNICE emphasised that generally low levels of worker mobility in Europe pointed to the poor functioning of many national labour markets. Concerning cross-border mobility between European countries, UNICE deplored missed growth and jobs opportunities as a result of the debate on the services directive and pleaded for a change in the approach of the directive on pension portability. [Read more](#) or contact: [Steven D'Haeseleer](#)

### **UNICE SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO COMBAT COUNTERFEITING AND PIRACY**

In view of discussions in the EP Legal Affairs Committee on the amended Commission proposal for a directive on criminal measures aimed to ensure the enforcement of IP rights, UNICE expressed its support for the Commission proposal to align the criminal framework in the Member States in order to send a strong political signal of the EU's willingness to combat counterfeiting and piracy effectively. UNICE asked for the directive to focus on trademark counterfeiting and copyright piracy. Patent infringements should be excluded from its scope. [Read more](#) or contact: [Ilias Konteas](#)