



Wednesday, 11 October 2006

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### UNICE PRESIDENT AT JP MORGAN CONFERENCE IN PARIS

Ernest-Antoine Seillière accepted an invitation from JP Morgan to attend a conference in Paris on 6 October. The main subject of the presentations by the speakers as well as the discussion with the audience was the economic situation in Europe. Mr Seillière reminded the participants that there is currently an economic recovery in Europe with expected growth of around 2.5% for the euro area and 2.7% for the EU as a whole. Nevertheless, even if that is good news, Mr Seillière recalled that structural problems remain and expectations for 2007 are already less positive. Globalisation was also part of the discussions; UNICE's President commented on the need not to minimise the globalisation advantages for Europe and the opportunities for European companies. Contact: [Philippe de Buck](#)

### REACH VOTE: AUTHORISATION AND SUBSTITUTION CREATE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR INDUSTRY

On 10 October, the Environment Committee of the European Parliament voted on REACH in the 2nd reading and has reinstated the EP's 1st reading position on authorisation/substitution and on duty of care, disregarding the Council's common position. These amendments create serious problems for industry. UNICE has explained these difficulties through various contacts, and in particular at a meeting between Philippe de Buck and Commissioner Dimas on Friday 6 October. The European Parliament, Council and Commission must continue their efforts to achieve a cost-effective and workable REACH before the plenary, scheduled for December 2006. A sensible approach to ensure a workable REACH is to stick as close as possible to the Council's common position. [Read more](#) or contact: [Nadine Toscani](#)

### PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AT THE HEART OF OPEN DAYS 2006

On 9 October, Philippe de Buck, UNICE Secretary General, participated in the opening session of the Open Days 2006 "Investing in Regions and Cities, How to Better Organise Public and Private Partnerships (PPPs)?" In a debate with the Commissioner for Regional Policy Ms Hübner, President of the Committee of the Regions Michel Delebarre and other high-level speakers, Mr de Buck emphasised that the Structural and Cohesion Funds should be used to leverage up investment to a much higher scale than is envisaged by public policy-makers. However, local authorities are still reluctant to engage in PPPs and Europe is failing to develop a coherent vision to attract more private investment. [Read more](#) or contact: [Eva Maria Revilla](#)

### TELEWORK: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU SOCIAL PARTNERS' AGREEMENT COMPLETED

At a press conference on 11 October, in presence of Commissioner Spidla, Secretaries General of UNICE, UEAPME, CEEP and ETUC presented a [report](#) on implementation of the European framework agreement on telework. The objective of the European agreement signed in July 2002 was to define a general framework to facilitate the use of telework in companies in a way that meets the needs of both workers and employers. The report describes and analyses the joint initiatives undertaken in each member state by social partners to transpose the provisions of the European agreement into their national industrial relations systems. It is the first time that such an agreement has been put in place directly and autonomously by workers' and employers' representatives at national level. [Read more](#) or contact: [Jeanne Schmitt](#)



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### **UNICE MEETS MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS TO ENERGISE DOHA**

On Tuesday 3 October, UNICE met David O'Sullivan, Director General of DG Trade in the European Commission, and a group of representatives from the US National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) to discuss possible next steps to get the Doha Development Agenda negotiations back on track towards an ambitious conclusion in 2007. Business gave a strong message that the major gains to be had from the round were through the creation of meaningful new business opportunities through the negotiations on industrial goods, services and trade facilitation, and that the continued focus on agriculture was unfortunate. Negotiators must now work in a cooperative spirit to move beyond the current impasse and deliver on the promise of the DDA. Contact: [Adrian van den Hoven](#)

### **FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP: UNICE AND JADE ENHANCE COOPERATION**

JADE, the European Confederation of Junior Enterprises, is a student-run, pan-European network representing around 20,000 student entrepreneurs. UNICE and JADE signed a memorandum of understanding on 4 October 2006, with a view to enhancing their cooperation on issues of common interest: promotion of entrepreneurial education of young people and creation of a positive mindset towards entrepreneurship and risk-taking. Contact: [Natascha Waltke](#)

### **EUROPEAN BUSINESS PUSHES FOR GROWTH AND JOBS STRATEGY**

On 11 October the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), the third largest political group in the European Parliament, held a seminar on "The Parliamentary Dimension of the Lisbon Agenda" chaired by ALDE leader Graham Watson. Folker Franz, UNICE Senior Adviser for the European growth and jobs strategy, underlined the importance of reforms to make Europe more innovative and competitive, and urged MEPs in particular to adopt a services directive which supports competition within the EU, as well as a chemicals legislation package (REACH) that does not overburden European industry, in particular SMEs. Contact: [Folker Franz](#)

### **BETTER REGULATION REMAINS A KEY OBJECTIVE**

UNICE and its member federations were represented on 4 October in a conference on better regulation and company law, organised by the Finnish Presidency. During his opening speech, Christoffer Taxell, the President of the Confederation of Finnish Industries EK, reiterated UNICE's message in this area such as the need for a more flexible regulatory regime, a principles-based and market-driven approach, and the need for impact assessment and proper consultations. [Read more](#) or contact: [Marta Alegrias](#)

### **FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE: GLOBAL FRAMEWORK, INTEGRATED APPROACHES NEEDED**

On 5 September, a UNICE delegation led by Daniel Cloquet, Director of UNICE's Industrial Affairs Department, met the Council's Working Party on climate change chaired by Mrs Haunia, from the Finnish Presidency, to discuss EU climate change strategy. UNICE stressed the importance of making progress at the upcoming United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Nairobi (November 2006) towards creating a truly global framework for combating climate change. Contact: [Daniel Cloquet](#) or [Miriam Munnich](#)