



Wednesday, 17 January 2007

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UNICE wishes you all the best for **2007...**
Happy New Year !



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE EUROPEAN ENERGY STRATEGY

On 10 January, Ernest-Antoine Seillière, President of UNICE, held a press conference on the future energy and climate change strategy for Europe. European companies see a real and urgent need to develop a European energy policy and a European climate policy which integrate effectively and in a balanced way the key challenges of competitiveness of European companies, security of supply, and environmental protection. The EU strategy should be designed on the basis of the following five principles: adhere to the philosophy of market economics, protect and strengthen EU competitiveness, be open to all energy options, include an active external policy and stick to the principle of better regulation. [Read more](#) or contact: [Daniel Cloquet](#)

UNICE CALLS FOR TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION ON DOHA, REGULATORY COOPERATION, ENERGY

In letters to German Chancellor [Angela Merkel](#) and Commission President [José Manuel Barroso](#), UNICE has called on both leaders to use their January visits to Washington DC to secure improved transatlantic cooperation in key areas. The EU and US must work together in the Doha Round of world trade talks if there is to be any hope of achieving EU and US industry's ambitious goals for goods and services. They must also deepen their bilateral relations by launching negotiations for a binding framework agreement for regulatory cooperation, that also covers questions such as services and investment. Finally cooperation in international fora on energy efficiency and climate change is vital for a fair and workable solution to be found. Contact: [Adrian van den Hoven](#)

PRESIDENT SEILLIÈRE MEETS JAPANESE MINISTER FOR ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

UNICE President Ernest-Antoine Seillière met Mr Amari, Japanese Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry on 10 January. The meeting was an opportunity for a discussion on the resumption of the WTO DDA negotiations and on how to strengthen EU-Japan economic relations. UNICE reaffirmed the priority given to the WTO and called again for further efforts for an early relaunch of the DDA talks for the benefit of all. Georges Jacobs presented to Mr Amari the work of the EU-Japan Business Dialogue Round Table he co-chairs to reinforce bilateral trade and investment links with Japan. Contact: [Carlos Gonzalez-Finat](#)



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EUROPEAN BUSINESS PRIORITIES FURTHER EXPLAINED

In a meeting with German Liberal MEP Jorgo Chatzimarkakis on 9 January, Philippe de Buck outlined the UNICE priorities for 2007. Both agreed that energy policy and climate change are hugely important issues that must be tackled at European, and not at national level. Especially on the issue of climate change, international aspects will be key for the success of the EU's policies in this field. On energy policy, the issue of realistic targets for renewables and, more generally, flexible objectives was discussed. Other topics included the EIT and Intellectual Property Rights. They agreed to continue an open dialogue on all of these important issues. Contact: [Christian Feustel](#)

PROMOTING INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS

UNICE Secretary General Philippe de Buck and the chair of UNICE's Innovation Task Force Ulla Sirkeinen attended the fourth stakeholders' meeting on the European Institute of Technology (EIT) which took place on 15 January in Brussels. Commissioner Jan Figel and responsible Directors from DGs Education and Culture, Research and Enterprise and Industry were present. Philippe de Buck used the opportunity to indicate UNICE's support for the Commission's proposal for the EIT stating that it is important to strengthen the link between business and universities. He also identified the need for EIT to focus and prioritise research and innovation in fields that are of importance to European society and business. [Read more](#) or contact: [Vincent McGovern](#)

SMEs NEED LESS BURDENSOME ACCOUNTING RULES

In the context of its goal of reducing administrative burdens in the EU by 25%, especially for SMEs, the European Commission has started a discussion on how the 4th and 7th company law directives on accounting could be simplified. The discussion is particularly timely in view of the current IASB project to adopt a special set of International Financial Reporting Standards for SMEs. The Commission has asked stakeholders to participate in the debate. A delegation from the UNICE Accounting Working Group met the European Commission on 8 January for a first exchange of views. A follow-up meeting will be held in February. Contact: [Folker Franz](#)

UNICE WILL ANNOUNCE ITS NEW NAME ON 23 JANUARY

