



Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe
Union des Confédérations de l'Industrie et des Employeurs d'Europe

16 October 1998

**UNICE CONFIRMS IT DOES NOT WANT TO NEGOTIATE
ON INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION**

Meeting in Brussels today, Friday 16 October 1998, the Council of Presidents of UNICE (Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe) has confirmed that UNICE will not enter into negotiations with ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation) on information and consultation of workers in national companies.

UNICE's President, Mr Georges Jacobs, thanked the European Commission for giving UNICE time to re-examine its position.

"Following an in-depth consultation by our member federations" said Mr Jacobs "it has been confirmed that European intervention on a subject which is so clearly national is regarded as unacceptable interference in Member States' industrial relations systems by a significant proportion of European employers. I therefore ask the European institutions to take this into account."

Mr Jacobs stressed that "worker information and consultation are necessary for good management of companies but the European Union should not intervene in the internal communication of purely national companies."

Mr Jacobs recalled that information and consultation areas justifying European intervention are already regulated by the directive on European Works Councils, the directive on collective dismissals, the directive on transfers of undertakings, and legislation on health protection and safety at work.

In conclusion, Mr Jacobs pointed out that this decision in no way casts doubts about UNICE's willingness to occupy the contractual area created by the social protocol annexed to the Maastricht treaty.