

13 November 1998

**UNICE AND UEAPME SEEK TO STRENGTHEN
THEIR CO-OPERATION IN THE SOCIAL DIALOGUE**

Yesterday, 12 November 1998, Mr G. Jacobs, President of UNICE, and Mr J. Kamminga, President of UEAPME, met to discuss ways to strengthen co-operation between the two European organisations in the social dialogue.

President Kamminga and President Jacobs said: "We both believe that it is desirable to join forces in defending the interests of European companies. We agreed that co-operation should be based on mutual recognition, respect for the autonomy of our two European organisations, trust and good faith".

Now that UEAPME is set to participate in the social dialogue, it has agreed to withdraw all the legal proceedings concerning the social dialogue.

"This also implies that practical solutions are found, which make it possible to defend employers' interests efficiently in negotiations and other meetings of the European social dialogue. We will now submit a proposal for a co-operation agreement between UNICE and UEAPME for approval to our respective decision-making structures so that it can be signed in Vienna on 4 December 1998" concluded Mr Jacobs and Mr Kamminga.

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