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UNICE CONCERNED BY ESCALATION IN “BANANA” CONFLICT

In the light of the most recent developments in the “banana” conflict between Europe and the United States, Dirk Hudig, UNICE's Secretary General, said today: "For European business, trade disputes between states are very dangerous for growth and employment. Such disputes must be settled exclusively in the framework of the WTO multilateral dispute settlement procedure put in place at the end of the Uruguay Round. Otherwise, in the present economic climate, there is a serious risk of creating all the conditions for a trade war which would be disastrous for the world economy, already weakened by the problems in Asia."

Mr Hudig called on the two partners to renew their efforts in that direction, and to halt the present escalation which could undermine WTO.