

Mr Horst Reichenbach
Director - DG XXIV
B232 - 08/116
European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
1047 BRUXELLES

DC/SR/ne/20/1

22 February 1999

Dear Sir,

re: Precautionary principle

I would like to thank you for the confidence DGXXIV has shown in UNICE by sending it a copy of the draft dated 17 October 1998.

UNICE fully endorses this initiative by DGXXIV which consists in producing guidelines for application of the precautionary principle. This constructive approach on the part of the European Commission represents an important step forward in clarification of the framework for deployment of a principle which is sometimes referred to in negative terms.

UNICE welcomes the substance of the six principles set out in the draft guidelines, which will make it possible to carry out appropriate actions while also taking account of the concerns of the various parties concerned.

European industry, which is following this question closely and working towards a better definition of this principle and a better match with business reality, would like to be fully involved in the debate now under way on this subject.

Yours faithfully,

Dirk F. Hudig
Secretary General