

PRESS RELEASE



UNICE

PRESS RELEASE

16 March 1999

Resignation of the European Commission : UNICE calls for quick end to institutional crisis

For the first time in history the European Commission has resigned. UNICE, the voice of more than 16 million entrepreneurs in Europe, considers this an opportunity for necessary reforms and better management of European policies. It should open the debate on more effective and efficient use of means and clear distribution of responsibilities within the institutions. UNICE welcomes such a debate.

UNICE warns of the dangers of the political vacuum following this resignation. The enormous challenges Europe is facing today - for example Agenda 2000 and the trade crisis with the USA - require the Union to continue to carry out its executive tasks to the full. This is in the interest of Europe as a whole, especially of European business and industry. Companies must be able to operate in a stable, secure and predictable political environment.

UNICE expresses the hope that this institutional crisis will be resolved quickly and that a new Commission, fully supported by the European Parliament, will be installed as soon as possible. Only a fully-mandated Commission that can act effectively will be able to deal with the big challenges ahead.

For further information, please call : Dirk F. Hudig (32 2 237.65.01), Christophe de Callatay (32 2 237.65.15) or Wytze Russchen (32 2 237 65 62).