
PRESS RELEASE



UNICE

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24 March 1999

<p>UNICE welcomes nomination of PRODI as new Commission President</p>
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UNICE, representing more than 16 million entrepreneurs in Europe, fully supports the quick nomination of Romano PRODI as new President of the European Commission, today at the European Council Summit in Berlin.

UNICE expects Mr. Prodi, Professor in Economics, former business leader, Industry and Prime Minister of Italy, to be a President, who will take the interests of European business and industry into serious account. "Since many of the problems in the European Union today are economic ones – for example the persistently high level of unemployment and the lack of competitiveness – we believe that this new Commission President will be the right man at the right place on the right moment", UNICE's Secretary General Dirk F. Hudig stated.

UNICE welcomes the fact that the new Commission, headed by Mr. Prodi, will have a full mandate, until the end of 2004. This implies stable and durable management of European policies, which is extremely important for enterprises in the EU. The current political vacuum should be filled as soon as possible, fully supported by the European Parliament, which still has to approve Mr. Prodi's nomination. "Business confidence in Europe requires an effective European Commission which is able to deal with the big challenges that the Union is facing today", Mr. Hudig concluded.

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