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**UNICE WELCOMES BERLIN AGREEMENT :
new impetus to European integration**

UNICE, the voice of more than 16 million entrepreneurs in Europe, welcomes the fact that the European Council Summit in Berlin has reached an overall agreement on Agenda 2000.

This agreement on policy reforms and the financial framework of the EU is essential for the future of Europe. It enables the European Union to deal more effectively and efficiently with the challenges ahead and to proceed successfully towards the enlargement. Structural reforms of EU policies and a sound financial perspective are a pre-condition for further progress of European integration. According to UNICE, the Berlin Summit is not the end of this, but an important step towards the further development of the Union into the next century.

UNICE congratulates the German Presidency with this result which, after a difficult period for the EU, gives new and necessary impetus to European integration. The Agenda 2000 agreement together with the nomination of a new European Commission President, gives EU enhanced credibility and a sense of coherence.

UNICE hopes that a reinforced and restructured Union will urgently deal with the modernisation and reform of the economies in Europe. *‘Only through a properly functioning economy can the social questions such as unemployment be resolved,* stated Dirk F. Hudig, Secretary General of UNICE. *The economy must be the single major priority of the new President and his team’.*