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<p>UNICE CALLS ON EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO COMPLETE SINGLE MARKET BEFORE 2002</p>
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Today, a delegation of UNICE, headed by President Baron Georges Jacobs, will meet European Commissioner Frits Bolkestein to present its priorities and concerns on the single market and taxation, both of crucial importance for business in Europe.

The single market is not yet completed. The fragmentation of the single market and the uneven enforcement of already agreed measures cause great problems for European enterprises, especially for SME's. UNICE President Jacobs will call on Commissioner Bolkestein to "re-establish momentum to the completion of the single market by setting a new, clear and realistic deadline by the year 2002".

UNICE stresses the need to focus on priorities for the single market. It will ask the Commission to include four essential priorities in the final version of the Action Plan for the Internal Market, which will be presented to the Council at the beginning of December.

UNICE's priorities are: the Community patent, a simple private company statute (mostly of benefit to SME's), the effective liberalisation of financial services and a Community VAT system adapted to business needs.

On taxation, UNICE will urge the Commissioner to re-cast the EU tax strategy, taking account of the actual needs of companies in the single market. UNICE President Georges Jacobs will emphasize that: "the current tax agenda is too one-sided and excessively influenced by Member States' objectives to protect their tax revenues".

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