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**IMMEDIATE UNICE RESPONSE TO LISBON OUTCOME:
EUROPEAN BUSINESS SUMMIT
ON INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY
Brussels, 9-10 June**

UNICE, the voice of more than 16 million enterprises in Europe, is **positive** about the conclusions of the special EU Summit in Lisbon. In a first reaction, UNICE's President Georges Jacobs states that the business community is "happy with this **new momentum** in the EU to tackle the high unemployment rates through economic and structural reforms".

UNICE "fully supports the EU leaders in putting the creation of employment through innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship as first objective. Innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship will not only create jobs but will also enhance the international competitiveness of Europe", says President Jacobs. **Reforms are urgent**" says UNICE and **a rapid implementation of the outcome of Lisbon is absolutely necessary** to enable Europe to catch up in the new and fast-moving e-economy".

UNICE welcomes the European Council's decision to set concrete targets and timetables to reach these objectives. However, UNICE urges national governments "to **impose shorter and sufficiently ambitious deadlines**". In today's rapidly developing e-economy where Europe is increasingly lagging behind, "the EU cannot risk setting its deadlines too late and too low". President Jacobs said that - with the current economic upturn - "now is the time to implement the necessary changes".

UNICE would like to be partner, together with the EU, in taking up these challenges and rendering the EU a more dynamic and competitive area. Therefore, President Jacobs invites all EU decision-makers to **a dialogue** with European entrepreneurs on the theme of **'Innovation and Creativity in Europe'** at the **European Business Summit**, which will take place on **9-10 June in Brussels**. The lesson of Lisbon that industry and the European institutions should work hand in hand will be brought into practice at this first Business Summit. It will consist of various workshops on subjects including 'e-business, innovation and new markets' and 'enhancing the flexibility of labour markets'. The Summit will lead to **concrete recommendations** to Commission President Prodi and the heads of EU member states.

For further information on the European Business Summit, please visit: www.ebsummit.org

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