



Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe
Union des Confédérations de l'Industrie et des Employeurs d'Europe

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UNICE STATEMENT ON EU AND OECD REGULATORY REFORM FOR TRANSPORT MARKETS

UNICE is the official voice of European Business and Industry vis a vis the EU institutions comprising 34 central and employers' federations from 26 European countries.

UNICE's policy objectives in relation to transport were set out in a recent memorandum (October 1999) to the EU institutions. The memorandum highlighted the need for efficient and competitive transport systems that are constantly improved to the benefit of the European economy.

In this respect the UNICE memorandum called for:

- A review of existing regulations which prevent gains in efficiency and the modernisation of the transport system.

The memorandum further noted:

- Europe's transport Costs must be reduced and service levels to the customer must simultaneously be improved to improve the competitiveness of European industry. UNICE stated that lower costs were necessary because logistics costs in Europe were 12% of GDP and only 10% in the USA.
- Best practice should be promoted in policy-making to encourage transport efficiency and improved performance.
- That greater emphasis should be placed on satisfying the demand side, accepting that the driving forces for increased goods transport are related to improvements in competitiveness.
- Efficient and cost effective logistics is increasing becoming a decisive factor of competition not only between companies but also regions, countries and trade blocs on the world market.

In line with this approach UNICE advocates the requirement for fully liberalised and competitive transport markets to meet the needs of industry and supports the rapid dismantling of obstacles which impede or distort the proper functioning of competitive transport markets.

UNICE therefore supports on-going regulatory reform of the transport market and believes that regulations governing the transport market should be regularly reviewed. In this respect, transport users represented by UNICE welcome the OECD Workshop in Paris on 25/26 May 2000 and support the case for a review of EC Regulation 4056/86 granting a block exemption to liner shipping conferences.

Note: In 1986 and 1994 UNICE supported the case for individual exemption of liner conference agreements as opposed to a group exemption. UNICE notes that EC Regulation 4056/86 is the only EU competition regulation that does not have a regular review process under which changing market circumstances can be taken into account.