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UNICE calls for quick progress to find solutions to tackle global warming

On the eve of the special "Environment" Council on 7 November and of the 6th United Nations Ministerial Conference on Climate Change (COP-6, The Hague, 13 to 24 November 2000), UNICE has transmitted to the EU Institutions a memorandum setting out the progress that it expects from COP-6, which must be an important step in the reinforcement of international cooperation to tackle global warming.

"Before it commits itself to ratification, the EU needs to agree with the other parties how the Kyoto protocol can be implemented effectively and efficiently", says Dirk Hudig, UNICE's Secretary General.

Reaching an agreement between the EU and all the other parties regarding the role to be played by the Kyoto mechanisms (emissions trading, Joint Implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism) is an essential prerequisite to ensure that the EU can ratify the Kyoto Protocol with a full understanding of the implications.

The Kyoto mechanisms are part of a wide range of instruments that can help nations to reach their objectives regarding control of greenhouse gas emissions.

These instruments must mobilise all parts of society.

For the business sector, long-term agreements between industry and public authorities are UNICE's first choice of instrument. The Kyoto mechanisms can complement agreements to help companies to meet their commitments in the most efficient and cost-effective way.

It is very important that the four mechanisms are allowed to work in an efficient global market. Therefore, UNICE stresses that no artificial restrictions (quantitative ceilings) should be placed on the role that can be played by the Kyoto mechanisms in efforts to control greenhouse gas emissions.

"A number of industry federations and companies are exploring how the mechanisms can be made to work. UNICE fully backs the search for solutions. We believe in a learning-by-doing approach", Dirk Hudig concludes.