

Brussels, 29 November 2000

UNICE CALLS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO REGULATION

On 28 November 2000, UNICE calls for an open debate on alternatives to legislation to shape future policy in Europe.

At the internal market forum organized by the European Commission with the French Presidency and the European Parliament, Erik Jonnaert of Procter & Gamble, Chairman of UNICE's working group on Consumer Affairs, stated : "Where yesterday we lived in the black and white world of legislation versus free market, today we are entering a much greyer world of soft law, in which regulation, self-regulation and co-regulation are different ways to reach policy objectives."

UNICE applauds Commission initiatives which aim at exploring new avenues for creating framework conditions which takes into account the globalization of the economy and the dynamics created by a fast evolving information society.

UNICE underscores the importance for the business community to contribute to an open dialogue with all stakeholders in Europe to develop alternatives to legislation.

The Chairman of the UNICE Consumer Affairs working group underlined in his address that, in any form of dialogue, open consultation and/or decision-making needs to be assured, or risk losing democratic legitimacy.

UNICE is looking to join forces with civil society stakeholders in Europe to agree on the right framework for the development of new forms of regulation in Europe.