

Brussels, 4 December 2000

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| <p>NEW EUROPEAN ENTREPRENEURS TO LEAD SME ACTIVITIES OF UNICE</p> |
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UNICE has recently appointed a group of three leading entrepreneurs to chair its SME working group. Appointed as Chairman, Mr Francesco Bellotti, an Italian SME entrepreneur, will be assisted by Mr Colin Perry and Mr Leif Lindberg, Both SME entrepreneurs in UK and in Sweden, and appointed as Vice-Chairs of this group.

As an entrepreneur in Italy, Mr Bellotti is President of Fratelli Bellotti, and Chair of the SME Council of Confindustria. His company specialises in the livestock foodstuffs sector and is linked to related businesses in the growth and development of pigs. Mr Bellotti is also involved in businesses operating in the field of information technology and multimedia research. In addition to his business activities, Mr Bellotti is President of the Regional Council of Small Industries in Piedmont, Member of the Committee of Presidents, Directors and the Board of Confindustria and Member of the Federal Committee of "Economy and Business".

Mr Perry is owner and Chief Executive of LTE Scientific Ltd, a company based near Oldham in the UK, employing 55 people and manufacturing microbiological laboratory equipment and he is as well an investor in many SME companies. Beside being a successful SME entrepreneur, Mr Perry is Vice-Chairman of the SME Council of Confederation of British Industry (CBI) in UK and a member of the UK Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Small Firms Committee.

In Sweden, Mr Leif Lindberg is Managing Director of Tryckindustri since 1976, a Swedish communication and publishing SME. He has also been a member of the board of the federation of Swedish Industries (SI) since 1996 and a member of the small business committee. He is as well actively involved in the industry section of the Swedish graphic companies federation.

These entrepreneurs have already demonstrated their interest in SME policy at European level by taking part in many occasion in UNICE activities and by promoting the small and medium sized enterprises interests towards key EU policy makers.

They are now in charge of setting priorities and coordinating the UNICE activities in this field and, considering their background, their valuable input and experience will be a real value in making the voice of SME entrepreneurs heard in Brussels.