

**EUROPEAN COMPANIES CALL FOR RAPID ADOPTION
OF THE REGULATION CREATING A COMMUNITY DESIGN**

12 February 2001

Since the publication of the Green Paper on the legal protection of designs in the European Union in June 1991, UNICE has been continuously involved in discussions on the proposals for both a Directive and a Regulation.

Adoption of the Directive in 1998 harmonised substantive aspects of design law and paved the way for adoption of the Regulation creating the Community Design. Building upon the great success of the Community Trademark, this Community Design would be valid throughout the whole territory of the Community by virtue of a single registration and would constitute a further step towards establishing a Community framework for intellectual property protection.

The Community Trademark has evidenced the cost-effectiveness of Community instruments for users, providing companies, and in particular SMEs, with enhanced support for innovation and market development.

UNICE understands that a final compromise could be reached during the Swedish presidency and it would like to reiterate the importance of rapid adoption of this instrument.

The final text discussed at Council level meets users' needs to a large extent. UNICE looks forward to its prompt adoption in order to enable the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market to start accepting registrations for this new Community IP right, on the same basis as for the Community Trademark.

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