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**G8: EUROPEAN BUSINESS WANTS IMPETUS FOR GLOBAL TRADING**

Brussels. – European business expects to see strong political support for launch a new trade round from the world's leading industrial nations at their meeting in Genoa on 20 - 22 July. Creating conditions for expanding trade worldwide is the way forward to support sustainable development. "Economic prosperity is one important pillar of sustainable development, and should not be demonised. Without prosperity, we cannot distribute wealth and enhance development", says UNICE's president Baron Jacobs. "We hope to see a clear commitment to a new broad-based multilateral trade round emerging from the G8 summit".

With worries looming about the success of the Bonn Climate Change Conference, UNICE hopes that all heads of state and government in Genoa will demonstrate political will to co-operate in finding global solutions to global issues. "Environmental quality is in the long term an important condition for sustained economic development, and European business has long recognised this. For this reason we hope that the current differences between the US and other Western industrialised countries can be bridged ", says Jacobs. On this issue, the G8 meeting can send an important political signal to the business world.

**Note to the editor:**

UNICE is the official voice of more than 16 million small, medium and large companies active in Europe, employing over 106 million people. Active in European affairs since 1958, UNICE's members are 33 central industrial and employers federations from 26 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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