

23 October 2001

<p><b>PHILIPPE DE BUCK VAN OVERSTRAETEN APPOINTED UNICE SECRETARY GENERAL</b></p>
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President Georges Jacobs announced today the decision of UNICE's Council of Presidents to appoint Mr Philippe de Buck van Overstraeten as UNICE Secretary General. Mr de Buck will take up his post on 1 January 2002.

A Belgian national, aged 53, Mr de Buck van Overstraeten holds a Doctorate of Law.

The new Secretary General comes to UNICE from Agoria – the largest industrial branch and employers' federation in Belgium, representing a broad range of engineering and technology sectors - where he was Chief Executive Officer since 1987. Mr de Buck van Overstraeten began his career with Agoria, in 1971, as an Advisor in the Legal and Tax Department. He was subsequently appointed Deputy Director of Social Affairs (1978), Secretary General (1981) and General Manager (1986).

Philippe de Buck is also an active member of the Management Boards and Boards of Directors of several Belgian and European business organisations and companies, including the VBO/FEB (Federation of Belgian Enterprises), ORGALIME (the Liaison Group of the European engineering industries) covering metal working, mechanical, electrical and electronic engineering, (ICTA) the Information Communication Technology Group as well as the Belgian Institute of Directors.

"I welcome our Council's unanimous decision to appoint Mr de Buck van Overstraeten and look forward to working with him in the future. He brings to UNICE a wealth of experience which will enhance UNICE's work on behalf of European companies " said President Jacobs.

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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