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**IN THE RUN-UP TO LAEKEN, UNICE PUBLISHES STRATEGY PAPER ON PENSION SUSTAINABILITY**

UNICE, the voice of business in Europe today, published a strategy paper on pension sustainability.

“Europe is faced with an unprecedented economic and social challenge due to demographic change, which requires comprehensive and deep-rooted pension reforms. The competitiveness of European companies, growth and employment in Europe are in danger if firms and workers have to cope with increasing labour costs due to a rising pension bill,” explained President Jacobs.

According to UNICE, pension reforms are clearly a national responsibility. However, there is also a European dimension to this issue.

- Exchanges of experience at EU level on solutions found in Member States are extremely useful.
- Ensuring free movement of people requires the removal of barriers to cross-border provision of supplementary pensions and of fiscal obstacles to transnational mobility.
- Delaying reforms could reduce the credibility of the Euro-zone as a whole. Hence the need to monitor national reforms at EU level.

UNICE appeals to heads of state and government to give a strong impetus to pension reforms at the European Council meeting in Laeken.

The UNICE strategy paper is available on our website:

[http://www.unice.org/unice/docum.nsf/AllDocumentsSearchEng/2AD891253B8089CAC1256B1B003381CD/\\$File/PENSIONS-E.PDF](http://www.unice.org/unice/docum.nsf/AllDocumentsSearchEng/2AD891253B8089CAC1256B1B003381CD/$File/PENSIONS-E.PDF)

*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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For further information, please contact:

Susanne Klunkert:

+32(0)2 237 65 62

GSM:

+32(0)477 277 963

Website:

[www.unice.org](http://www.unice.org)