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UNICE WELCOMES ADOPTION OF THE COMMUNITY DESIGN REGULATION

After 10 years of intense discussions, the Environmental Council yesterday adopted the regulation creating a Community design.

UNICE would like to congratulate the Belgian Presidency, Member States and the EU institutions on this achievement which represents an important step forward in the completion of an EU framework supportive of innovation.

Building upon the great success of the Community trademark, the Community design will provide innovative industry with a single title valid throughout the whole territory of the Community by virtue of a single registration.

This new user-friendly tool to protect industrial property rights should benefit all companies in Europe and in particular SMEs which will now be able to protect and enforce the fruit of their creativity more easily and should facilitate their access to new markets.

UNICE hopes that all efforts will now be directed to rapid adoption of the implementing regulations which will enable the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market to start accepting and processing registrations for this new Community Intellectual Property right.

Finally, UNICE trusts that this positive move will be followed by swift adoption of a Community patent that responds to companies' needs.

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NOTE to the editor:

UNICE is the official voice vis-à-vis the institutions of the European Union of the more than 16 million small, medium and large companies active in Europe today. These companies employ a total of more than 106 million people. They generate the resources which are the basis for the well-being and living standards of society. Employment in Europe depends largely on their success. Created in 1958, UNICE's membership now consists of 33 central industrial and employers' federations from 26 European countries. Its priority mission is to ensure that common interests of the companies it represents are heard, understood and taken into account. UNICE is a social partner and its role is enshrined in the Treaty establishing the European Community.

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