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UNICE CALLS FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION IN A WHITE PAPER ON THE COMMISSION'S CONSUMER PROTECTION IDEAS

UNICE has just issued its position paper in response to the Commission green paper on EU consumer protection.

UNICE is supportive of any discussions on how best to integrate consumer protection interests in the EU decision-making process and to help the effective completion of the internal market for all stakeholders alike, and is aware of the challenges posed by the near horizon of an enlarged Europe, the consolidation of the new currency and the greater use of new technologies.

It nevertheless remains rather sceptical as to whether the green paper's proposals to establish a new comprehensive regulatory framework for business-to-consumer commercial practices would achieve their purposes of improving consumer protection and realising the full potential of the internal market at minimum cost to business.

UNICE feels that the Commission fails to offer sufficient evidence of the need for and the workability of the reform proposed. UNICE fears that discussions may focus on the search for big solutions to small problems.

For these reasons, prior to adoption of any follow-up measures, UNICE urges the Commission to clarify the details of its proposals as well as the practical implications for the parties concerned in the form of a white paper which will enable interested stakeholders to examine ways forward thoroughly.

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 34 central industrial and employers federations from 27 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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