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**UNICE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT
ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY PROPOSAL**

The European Commission has yesterday adopted a proposal for a Directive on environmental liability. UNICE is deeply concerned about the proposal which would expose companies to unlimited liability claims for damage to biodiversity which is difficult to define and which is not quantifiable. As a consequence, companies risk facing disproportionate and ruinous claims against which they may be unable to insure themselves.

UNICE strongly protests against the Commission proposing such unlimited liability without having undertaken a proper economic assessment and cost-benefit analysis of the proposal and without having any substantiated arguments which indicate whether adequate insurance cover will be available.

“UNICE fears that this legislative proposal, which is extremely damaging to companies, whether big or small, and which will frustrate numerous legitimate business projects to the detriment of European competitiveness, will harm the Lisbon objective to make Europe the most competitive and dynamic economy of the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs”, says Philippe de Buck, Secretary General of UNICE.

UNICE calls on the Member States and the European Parliament to reject a proposal which entails unlimited liability and whose impact has not been adequately assessed.

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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