



• **Joint Press Conference** •
Dorint Hotel

Brussels, 21st February 2002

**Barcelona Spring Summit
Make it a Success**

*MESSAGE TO THE MEDIA FROM UNICE'S SECRETARY GENERAL, PHILIPPE DE BUCK
BRUSSELS, 21 FEBRUARY 2002*

Creating space for business is what we request. UNICE believes that if the Lisbon target is to be achieved, we need to see **political commitment matching political action.** Otherwise, the EU will continue to lag behind major trading partners, at high economic cost. We demand **structural and economic reforms. The single market needs to become a reality** if growth is to increase. Liberalising protected markets will create opportunities for investment and growth, with increasing competition leading to higher quality and lower prices for goods and services.

In the count-down to the Barcelona summit, we urge to take the following steps:

- * **Innovation:** Member States must deliver a supportive legislative framework that will allow to
 - reduce the administrative burden;
 - harness new technologies, for example in the field of biotechnology. Biotechnology is a major source of innovation;
 - invest in research and technological development (R&TD). The principle objective of the common R1TD policy must be to help underpin innovation in Europe. UNICE calls for R&TD policies that support stronger co-operation between the scientific community and industry.
 - agree on a competitive Community patent. European business was very disappointed by the failure of Member States to reach agreement on a competitive Community patent, and we look to the Spanish Presidency to find a solution to this problem.

- * **Economic and structural reform in order to achieve the Internal Market:** The single market is the backbone of the European economy, and underpins its performance. Completion of the single market remains the key goal in order for European companies to operate and compete effectively cross-border. Europe needs
 - integrated and interoperable networks that are open and competitive;
 - the complete opening up to competition of transport, energy, postal and telecommunications networks should be implemented within fixed and short-term deadlines.

Further UNICE input to the Barcelona Summit:

- Delegation of UNICE Presidents and Executive Directors to present a detailed Lisbon progress report to Spanish EU President Aznar on 14 March.
- For more details and press statements, see www.unice.org

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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Barcelona Spring Summit Make it a Success

*MESSAGE TO THE MEDIA FROM EUROCHAMBRES' SECRETARY GENERAL, ARNALDO ABRUZZINI
BRUSSELS, 21 FEBRUARY 2002*

Entrepreneurship and more risk taking represent the foundation that will enable the development of the “most dynamic and competitive knowledge based economy in the world”.

Europe needs more entrepreneurial spirit and skills! Economic success is just as much dependent on dynamic employees (intrapreneurship) as upon innovative employers (entrepreneurship). A new culture of more individual self-initiative and self-responsibility leading to an increased willingness to take risks, represents a desirable model for all areas of society. However, the efforts required of companies and their employees can only develop when accompanied by basic economic and political conditions which meet the demands of a dynamic economy.

- **We call** for a decrease of taxation rates to a globally competitive level so that risk-taking is better rewarded,
- **We urge** Member States to develop instruments to give people, who have failed once, a second chance, as a more equitable bankruptcy law,
- **We call** for an easier access to finance for SMEs,
- **We call** for adequate legal instruments for the protection of Intellectual Capital,
- **We urge** Member States to consider special activities aimed at promoting more individual self-initiative and self-responsibility. Education and training play a major role for the development of the new entrepreneurial culture!

Still an important skills gap exists! The general and professional knowledge acquired notably in state-operated training systems (schools and universities) does not always meet the expectations of the economy. This situation hampers business growth and leads to an unacceptable waste of resources and persons not being able to finding employment.

- **We call** for a clear procedure to identify key skills for the knowledge economy,
- **We urge** Member States to adapt training systems in accordance with the needs of business.

- See also, the letter of Eurochambres' President, Christoph Leitl to President Prodi – 31 January 2002 (<http://www.eurochambres.be>).
- Eurochambres' detailed position paper to Barcelona will be available as from end of February 2002 at the following address: <http://www.eurochambres.be>.

EUROCHAMBRES

Created in 1958, the same year as the birth of the European Communities, Eurochambres is the Brussels-based Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry. With members from 36 National Chamber organisations, including the 15 EU Member States and the candidate countries, Eurochambres is part of an **institutional network**, ultimately including 15,000,000 European businesses. With a **multi-sectorial membership of businesses**, Eurochambres is the only body that serves the interests of every sector - and every size - of European business. It is **the largest single business representation in Europe**.

As the key player in a vast network of businesses and Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Eurochambres works hand in hand with all European Institutions **in promoting a positive, competitive, pro-business environment**. Our network of more than 1,500 Chambers, which are the national and local voices of European businesses, provides Eurochambres with the representativeness and means to fulfil our mission **to influence European legislation in a constructive manner**. In this way, Eurochambres seeks to play **a key role in the formulation of European Union policies**.

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UNION EUROPEENNE DE L'ARTISANAT ET DES PETITES ET MOYENNES ENTREPRISES
EUROPÄISCHE UNION DES HANDWERKS UND DER KLEIN- UND MITTELBETRIEBE
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF CRAFT, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES
UNIONE EUROPEA DELL'ARTIGIANATO E DELLE PICCOLE E MEDIE IMPRESE

Barcelona Spring Summit Make it a Success

*MESSAGE TO THE MEDIA FROM UEAPME'S SECRETARY GENERAL, HANS-WERNER MÜLLER
BRUSSELS, 21 FEBRUARY 2002*

UEAPME expects actions from the Governments which **restore the confidence of businesses and consumers, by implementing the necessary economic reforms and by creating a more supportive macroeconomic environment.** This would also reduce the dependency on the US economy by strengthening Europe's domestic markets.

From UEAPME's point of view, I would like to add and to underline the following aspects which are necessary to meet the needs of Crafts, Trades and SME's:

- The decision of the ECOFIN last week is dangerous for the stability of the Euro and has put the Stability and Growth Pact into question. **Stable long-term fiscal conditions** are very important for economic development. They **should not be endangered by short-term national interests.** The current German government will be responsible for weakening the Euro.
- The Lisbon targets (3% growth rate, 70 % employment rate) will not be achievable without further labour market reforms and, more importantly, and without **abolishing the negative incentives of social security systems to enter into or to stay in the labour market** (earlier pensions schemes, family related taxation, non-wage labour costs). The Member States also have to give more consideration to the growing number of undeclared workers across the Union.
- Two years ago the Head of States declared the European Charter for Small Enterprises. Now, the implementation report of the European Commission has demonstrated, that the implementation is insufficient, both on national and on European level. The Barcelona Summit should **ask the European Commission to provide not only a report but also recommendations to the Governments and to present concrete actions on European level in order to fulfil the commitments of the Charter.**

Further activities regarding the preparation of the Barcelona Summit by UEAPME:

- Letter to President Aznar and to the SME Ministers Conference on 23.02.2002 with remarks on the Reports on the Best procedure and the Implementation of the European Charter of Small Enterprises (14.02.2002).
- UEAPME positions paper on the Implementation of the European Charter for Small Enterprises (early March).

UEAPME the 'voice' of crafts, trades and SME's in Europe

UEAPME is the employer's organisation representing the interests, at European level, of crafts, trades and SME's in the European Union and countries applying for accession to the European Union. It is a non-profit seeking and non-partisan.

Its 70 member organisations consist of national cross-sectorial federations and European branch. Of the 19 million enterprises in the European Union, UEAPME represents more than 7 million which employ over 30 million people. Across the whole of Europe, UEAPME represents over 10 million enterprises with nearly 50 million employees.



21 February 2002

MAKE BARCELONA A SUCCESS

With the Barcelona Summit drawing near, the organisations representing Europe's business community have joined forces for the first time to urge all 15 heads of state and government that they must now deliver on their commitment to achieving a competitive Europe. In today's press conference all Secretaries General of the major European business associations* called on national governments to meet the targets they set themselves in Lisbon and to deliver the urgently needed reforms. To convey their message, they have sent a jointly signed letter to all 15 government leaders, warning that "without rapid structural reforms, including in the labour market, the EU cannot achieve consistent high growth, and will not be able to create sustainable jobs and prosperity for its citizens." This joint initiative complements the separate contributions to Barcelona of the four associations.

In today's press conference, the European business community pointed to neglected "homework": deadlines set in Lisbon have been missed. The lack of liberalisation of the energy markets is one example. "We are very concerned that the ambitious Lisbon targets are not matched by the willingness to carry out difficult structural reforms in key markets," said Philippe de Buck, Secretary General of UNICE. "If the EU is to convert its potential into performance, now is the time for actions. Europe is falling back in terms of growth and productivity in relation to the US. It is of utmost importance to increase the attractiveness of Europe, as a location for enterprise and investment" added his counterpart, Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES.

"We are concerned about the general orientation of European debates on sustainability, corporate social responsibility and new governance", explained Xavier Durieu, Secretary General of EUROCOMMERCE. "The role and the importance of business development as a prerequisite has to be recognised in these debates."

"The Barcelona summit is the opportunity for member states to make clear their commitment to really shaping Europe into the most competitive economic region in the world. Progress should no longer be hindered by national egoism, which is costly for Europe's economy and society," appealed Hans Werner Müller, Secretary General of UEAPME.

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EUROCHAMBRES

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As the key player in a vast network of businesses and Chambers of Commerce and Industry, EUROCHAMBRES works hand in hand with all European Institutions in promoting a positive, competitive, pro-business environment. Our network of more than 1,500 Chambers, which are the national and local voices of European businesses, provides EUROCHAMBRES with the representativeness and means to fulfil our mission to influence European legislation in a constructive manner. In this way, EUROCHAMBRES seeks to play a key role in the formulation of European Union policies.

EUROCOMMERCE

Created in 1993, EuroCommerce is the Retail, Wholesale and International Trade representation to the European Union. With more than 100 members from 24 European Countries, EuroCommerce, as the trade representation to the EU institutions is recognised as a sectoral Social partner and defends the common interests of its members at EU level and keeps them informed on European dossiers that impact their activities. It is the objective of the 4.7 million of enterprises active in the Commerce sector to create welfare for their total of 22.5 million employees while meeting the needs and expectations of over 370 millions consumers in the Internal market.

UEAPME

UEAPME is the employer's organisation representing the interests, at European level, of crafts, trades and SME's in the European Union and countries applying for accession to the European Union. It is a non-profit seeking and non-partisan.

Its 70 member organisations, as of December 2001, consist of national cross-sectorial federations, European branch federations and other associate members which support the SME family. Of the 19 million enterprises in the European Union, UEAPME represents more than 7 million which employ over 30 million people. Across the whole of Europe, UEAPME represents over 10 million enterprises with nearly 50 million employees.

More about UEAPME (Union Européenne des Artisanats et des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises):
www.ueapme.com

UNICE

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 34 central industrial and employers' federations from 27 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.



Monday 18th February 2002

Make Barcelona a success

EUROCHAMBRES, EUROCOMMERCE, UEAPME and UNICE representing the business community in the European Union, call on all Member States to implement the targets they set themselves in Lisbon and to deliver the policies that are urgently needed to make Barcelona a success. Understand that without rapid structural reforms including in the labour market, the EU cannot achieve consistent high growth, and will not be able to create sustainable jobs and prosperity for its citizens. Without economic growth it is impossible to achieve sustainable development. A strong economy underpins a strong and cohesive society, and enables governments, companies and individuals to fulfil their role in a responsible way.

The March 2000 Lisbon summit created a new process in EU policy, but more importantly it marked a change in attitude by the Member States. For the first time, heads of State and Government set themselves clear and unambiguous targets for the completion of the Internal Market, recognising that failure to do so was restricting the EU's growth potential. The conclusions of the Lisbon summit were heralded a success by the business community.

Two years on, the Spanish Presidency and Member States are preparing for the Barcelona Spring summit, which will assess progress made so far. This is a critical moment. Deadlines have been missed. Progress in implementing agreed legislation has been slow. In spite of the EU's potential and underlying economic strength, European economies are losing ground relative to the USA, their main competitor. Productivity growth is lower, leading to under-performance.

The European business community asks Member States to ensure that the ambitious Lisbon targets are matched by a willingness to carry out difficult structural reforms in key markets, and calls for action to convert Europe's potential into performance. The current difficult economic climate underlines the need for deeper economic policy coordination to reinforce the Stability and Growth Pact.

Furthermore, European business is concerned about the general orientation of the European debates on sustainability, corporate social responsibility and new governance. The importance of social and ecological development for a broad acceptance of Europe by all groups of society is recognised. However only a robust economy will be able to provide the basis for progress in these policies. Economic development is the prerequisite for sustainable development, and business therefore has an important role to play.

The Barcelona summit is the opportunity for Member States to make clear their commitment to really making the EU *"the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world"* while embracing a successful enlargement to candidate countries. The European business organisations and their national affiliates declare their full support for the Lisbon strategy. We will work together with national governments, parliaments, and the European Commission, to take the necessary decisions and to implement these policies. We are counting on you to make Barcelona a success - Europe's economy depends on it.

Yours sincerely,

Arnaldo Abruzzini
Secretary General
EUROCHAMBRES

Xavier Durieu
Secretary General
EUROCOMMERCE

Hans Werner Müller
Secretary General
UEAPME

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