

ETUC UNICE/UEAPME CEEP

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**UNICE/UEAPME, CEEP AND ETUC* ADOPT A FRAMEWORK OF
ACTIONS FOR THE LIFELONG DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETENCIES AND
QUALIFICATIONS**

Today, on the occasion of the Social Summit, the European social partners presented to the European Council President, Mr Aznar, a “framework for actions for the lifelong development of competencies and qualifications”, jointly elaborated by UNICE/UEAPME, CEEP and ETUC.

This framework of actions highlights the joint responsibility of employers and employees for the lifelong development of competencies and qualifications in Europe and identifies four areas for priority actions:

- identification and anticipation of competencies and qualifications needs;
- recognition and validation of competencies and qualifications;
- information, support and guidance;
- resources.

Social partners will promote this framework in Member States, at all appropriate levels taking account of national practices. They will report annually on the national actions carried out on the four priorities identified. In March 2006, they will present an evaluation of the impact of the four priorities on both companies and workers, which can lead to an update of these priorities.

This framework for actions is an innovative result of the European social dialogue. Adopted on the eve of the Barcelona European Council, it is an important contribution of ETUC, UNICE/UEAPME and CEEP to the strategy set up at the European Council in Lisbon.

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