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UNICE WELCOMES INITIATIVES FOR BETTER REGULATION

At its meeting on 5 June 2002, the Commission adopted four communications to fulfil the commitments of the White Paper on European Governance to make the European Institutions work better. These include a communication on Better Lawmaking, an Action Plan on Better Regulation, general principles and minimum standards for consultation and a communication on impact assessment.

UNICE welcomes the general approach of these communications whose objective is to implement the White Paper on European Governance.

In a position paper on the White Paper, published on 28 February 2002, UNICE already highlighted the main points that are important to business and on which the White Paper remained rather general. These included:

- Need for a list of criteria for evaluating the representativeness of consulted European organisations;
- In order to improve EU legislation, the need for establishment of a comprehensive, well-structured and transparent impact assessment mechanism;
- Promotion of the use of alternative regulatory models and mixes of legislative and non-legislative instruments and their application, based on a case-by-case assessment, as an alternative to traditional legislation.

UNICE considers it vital that EU institutions show a strong commitment to maximise openness and efficiency of the EU's working methods, not to do more but to do better. The plans of the Commission are a step in the right direction, but the real effect is dependent of effective implementation. Therefore, UNICE urges effective implementation of these plans so that the goals of simpler and clearer legislation as well as less costs and administrative burden for businesses and citizens will be achieved. In the quest for these goals, UNICE will actively follow implementation of the proposed Action Plan on Better Regulation and will maintain its active contribution to this debate.

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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