

14 June 2002

UNICE PRESIDENCY:

- **DR JÜRGEN F. STRUBE, CHAIRMAN OF BASF AG, ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT OF UNICE FROM 1 JULY 2003**
- **PRESIDENT GEORGES JACOBS AGREES TO REMAIN FOR ONE MORE YEAR**

At its meeting in Seville (Spain) on 14 June 2002, UNICE's Council of Presidents elected Dr Jürgen F. Strube, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF AG, as the new President of UNICE.

For professional reasons, Strube will only be able to take up this high office from 1 July 2003. The current President, Mr Georges Jacobs, President of the Executive Committee of UCB SA, agreed to extend his current mandate until 30 June 2003.

After the election Strube said: "It is a great honour for me to assume this presidency next year. Europe is becoming more and more closely integrated and UNICE plays a central role in this development. I will strive to ensure that the European Union is a competitive and innovative region for investment".

"I am particularly happy that an outstanding Chairman such as Dr. Strube has accepted the position of president of UNICE", said his predecessor, Georges Jacobs. "We have to accept the fact that he will only be taking over with effect from the middle of next year. I have therefore accepted the request of our members to continue in the position of President of UNICE until then."

Professor Dr Strube has been Chairman of BASF since 1990. During his career he has spent many years abroad in leading positions with BASF in Brazil and the United States. Having served as President of the German Association of Chemical Industry (VCI) and as Vice-President of the German Industry Federation (BDI), he is familiar with the workings of national and international business organisations. Strube has consistently promoted European business relations. He was one of the initiators of the Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) and was its first EU chairman. Furthermore he was the first EU chairman of the Mercosur Economic Business Forum (MEBF). In the field of social affairs Strube is a founding member of a nationwide German initiative to increase employment that was well received by industry and the general public.

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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