

# UNICE

THE VOICE OF BUSINESS IN EUROPE

06/11/2002

Dear Ambassador,

The creation of a Single European Sky will be a crucial step towards more efficient use of airspace and solving the problem of flight delays in Europe. UNICE supports the proposals of the Commission to this end, covering the provision of air navigation services, the organisation and use of airspace, and interoperability.

UNICE also appreciates the overall approach of the European Parliament's first reading of the Single Sky package and points out that a failure to reach a Common Position in the next Transport Council on 5 and 6 December could seriously endanger reaching the target set by the European Council of Barcelona for bringing about a Single Sky in 2004. UNICE therefore strongly urges the Member States to solve their differences and to adopt a Common Position without delay.

I would like to recall industry's major concerns and expectations with regard to the creation of the Single European Sky:

- A Single European Sky should be implemented by December 2004.
- Very close cooperation between civil and military interests is needed to end the division of the sky into civil and military sectors; this is the basis for increasing efficiency in airspace.
- The concept of flexible use of airspace must optimise capacity especially for civil use by minimising the period of restricted times for military purposes.
- Eurocontrol must have the opportunity to act as an effective regulator.

Concerning the European Parliament's emphasis on the importance of taking Member States' defence needs into account, UNICE acknowledges that these indeed are to be met. However, Member States should also be willing to compromise on how to accommodate the needs of civil aircraft, paving the way for a cooperative manner of handling airspace capacity. In UNICE's point of view, the concept of flexible use of airspace is the most efficient way to reconcile civil and military interests in the use of airspace.

Concerning the introduction of user charges that include external costs, UNICE recalls its position that any such charging systems should be non-discriminatory between transport modes, and take due account of Europe's international competitiveness.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for this letter to be brought to the attention of your Minister and experts in charge of this issue. I thank you for the attention you may give to our views.

Yours sincerely,



Philippe de Buck  
Secretary General

Copy: Transport Attache