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<b>EP POINTS THE WAY TOWARDS INTERNAL RAILWAY MARKET</b>
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"We are very pleased with the decision of the European Parliament's Transport (RETT) Committee to support accelerated market-opening for both freight and passenger transport. An open market will mean lower costs, better quality, increasing demand and timely innovation," says Philippe de Buck, Secretary General of UNICE.

If supported by the plenary meeting of the EP and the Council of Ministers, this will ensure that as from 2006, companies engaged in international goods transport by rail, will be allowed to accept transport orders within other member states (cabotage), optimising their transport trips from an economic and environmental point of view. This is commonplace for other competing transport modes such as road transport, and UNICE warmly welcomes this move towards putting the railway market on an equal footing.

UNICE therefore calls on the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers to fully endorse the recommendations of the RETT Committee.

*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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