

Mr Erkki Liikanen
Member of the European Commission
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1049 BRUXELLES

26 June 2003

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear Mr Liikanen,

RE : GREEN PAPER ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

I take pleasure in enclosing UNICE's reaction to the Green Paper on Entrepreneurship in Europe. UNICE welcomes the Commission's initiative and is pleased to take part in discussions on how best to shape future policy. Europe needs to foster entrepreneurship more effectively and it is vital that the Green Paper and the follow-up of the consultation process will lead to a more favourable environment for entrepreneurs.

Increased entrepreneurial activity has a direct impact on the overall economic performance of the EU and entrepreneurship is therefore a crucial element for achieving the Lisbon objectives. It is the role of policy-makers to ensure an environment in which entrepreneurs are able and motivated to create prosperity.

UNICE identifies three areas on which policy-makers should focus in order to foster entrepreneurship in Europe. These are taxation and finance; better regulation and simplification; and the promotion of entrepreneurship, changing attitudes and the role of education. Prior to this, the importance of an efficiently functioning single market, a stable macro-economic environment and a sound infrastructure for entrepreneurship is underlined, as well as the need for a coordinated policy approach and concrete action plan to improve entrepreneurship policy at all levels.

I hope that the attached paper will contribute to discussions on how to improve entrepreneurship policy.

Yours faithfully,

(original signed by)
Philippe de Buck