

## UNICE Member Federations survey of the Internal Market

Several of UNICE's Member Federations have conducted a survey of 200 companies, two thirds of which are SMEs with fewer than 250 employees, which has sought to establish whether companies fully benefit from the Internal Market. What types of barriers, if any they continue to encounter in daily business, and how they tackle such challenges. Some of the key findings and policy conclusions of the survey indicate that:

- ❑ More than a quarter of the surveyed companies say that the Single Market has led to over-burdensome and unclear regulation;
- ❑ More than half of the companies still meet mandatory, additional national requirements that result in product changes, and;
- ❑ Many companies still need to do extra national testing/certification of products and meet extra national documentation requirements.

It is clear from this survey that action is required to augment the internal market and help make it one in which business can be created and encouraged to grow unhindered by regulatory barriers and obstacles to the free movement of services and products. What is equally clear is that responsibility for undertaking these actions must be accepted and acted upon at both the European and the national levels.

There are many important conclusions and recommendations that can be drawn from this survey and that point, at the European and the Member State levels, to essential actions that need to be undertaken.

**A publication detailing the survey findings is planned to be available in March 2004.**

**Pending the final publication of the results more information on this survey can be obtained by contacting the main UNICE Member Federations that conducted the survey. They are:**

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