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**NEW COMMISSION PRESIDENT MUST STEER A CLEAR COURSE TOWARDS
MORE INNOVATION, GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS**

UNICE takes note of José Manuel Barroso's confirmation as new President of the European Commission. The new Commission President will now have to set the course for the next political cycle. UNICE expects from the Commission a clear commitment to progressive, economic reform-oriented policy. The question of reinforcing Europe's competitiveness must be on top of the agenda.

European business welcomes and congratulates Mr Barroso on his confirmation as President of the European Commission. UNICE assures him all kind of cooperation and expects the Commission to have a strong competitiveness agenda.

Initiating the necessary economic reforms must be top priority, and UNICE considers a Commissioner with the task of overseeing all Commission work affecting Europe's competitiveness as a very efficient way to streamline economic reforms.

UNICE Secretary General Philippe de Buck: *"We expect Mr Barroso to be a real "Lisbon"-President. The new Commission under his leadership must steer a clear course towards more innovation, growth and competitiveness. Mr Barroso has rightly mentioned that globalisation means facing up to competition in open, global markets – and therefore European business expects from the new Commission that they will give the appropriate competitive answers."*

Note to the editor:

UNICE is the official voice of more than 16 million small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, UNICE's members are 37 central industrial and employers federations from 30 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe

For further information, please contact:

Maria Fernanda Fau:
Website:

+32(0)2 237.65.62
www.unice.org