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UNICE URGES MEMBER STATES TO MOVE FORWARD ON COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED INVENTIONS

UNICE urges Member States to formally adopt their political agreement on the patentability of computer-implemented inventions, at a forthcoming Council meeting.

UNICE's Secretary General Philippe de Buck commented : "*The common position brings the needed clarification as to what is patentable and what is not. It provides the conditions and limits within which Europe's inventors can protect their computer-implemented inventions*".

The Council political agreement clearly excludes patents for software as such, as well as patents for business methods. Only technical innovations embodied in a computer program and meeting the patentability criteria of novelty, inventiveness and industrial applicability can be patented.

A legal framework ensuring appropriate patent protection in this area is key to enable European companies, including SMEs, to be competitive in a high-tech global environment. Patents guarantee a return on R&D investments and attract venture capital. This has a spin-off effect which boosts innovation.

The Council's common position will support Europe's innovation in new technologies which is a pillar for growth of the European economy. This is key to improve Europe's competitiveness and therefore contribute to the Lisbon strategy.

Note to the editor:

UNICE is the voice of more than 20 million small, medium and large companies.

Active in European affairs since 1958, UNICE's members are 38 central industrial and employers federations from 32 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