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UNICE URGES EU MINISTERS TO FOLLOW GLOBAL APPROACH FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

UNICE has raised concerns ahead of the Environment Council on 10 March 2005 which is to discuss the development of a medium- and longer-term (post-2012) EU climate change strategy.

The EU cannot solve the challenge of climate change on its own.

Only global solutions will work - it is important that we include all countries in a post-2012 regime. UNICE urges the Environment Council to recognise that the development of targets and timetables for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases at this stage is premature, since it could deter our main partners from entering into negotiations on a truly comprehensive global agreement to combat the risks of climate change. Furthermore, EU business has taken and continues to take measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but unilateral EU absolute caps could lead to considerable carbon leakage and associated loss of investments to regions that are not taking similar actions.

Climate protection is a long-term challenge: global and flexible participation, R&D, eco- and energy-efficient technologies will be essential over the coming decades.

“EU has taken leadership of the climate change issue, it is essential that the EU uses its leadership position to bring all parties together to develop a comprehensive international climate change agreement that is supported by all nations and regions” said Philippe de Buck, UNICE Secretary General.

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.

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