

26 May 2005

**GOOD NEWS FOR THE WTO:
PASCAL LAMY TO BE THE NEXT WTO DIRECTOR GENERAL**

UNICE wishes Pascal Lamy success as the next WTO Director General as of 1 September 2005.

"This nomination is excellent news for the WTO and the Doha Development Agenda negotiations under way" said Philippe de Buck, UNICE Secretary General. "It shows that the 148 WTO Members coming from developing and developed, small and big countries are taking the multilateral trading system and its effective functioning very seriously."

UNICE commends Ambassador Amina Mohamed, Ambassador Glenne, Ambassador Stephenson, the four candidates and all WTO Members on the exemplary selection process. It is a strong signal that the organisation has gained in maturity and that its members were keen to give the new Director General a full mandate. The smooth transition process will facilitate the preparation of the 13-18 December Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong and is a positive sign for future cooperation among WTO Members. *"Let us move on in the cooperative spirit and with the strong political willingness which led to Pascal Lamy's nomination"* said Philippe de Buck.

UNICE is committed to supporting the strengthening and deepening of the multilateral trading system and the successful conclusion of the DDA on the basis of a significant and balanced outcome in the interest of all WTO Members as soon as possible.

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