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## **UNICE UNDERLINES THAT THE EUROPEAN UNION AND TURKEY WOULD BENEFIT FROM FURTHER ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

The Council of Ministers of the European Union decided yesterday to open accession negotiations with Turkey. The conditions in which those negotiations will be conducted have been agreed.

On Turkey: UNICE reiterates the position expressed in its statement in December 2004, *“It is for the European Council to decide whether the Copenhagen political criteria are fulfilled. If they are, UNICE supports the opening of accession negotiations with Turkey under the conditions and process recommended by the Commission”*.

UNICE, including its Turkish members, is committed to monitoring to what will be long and complicated negotiations.

Ernest-Antoine Seillière, UNICE President, said: *“Turkey is an important economic partner of the European Union and both sides would benefit from further economic integration. We must be aware that the negotiations will sometimes be difficult. UNICE, as the European business organisation, will monitor closely both the negotiations and their results.”*

### **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 39 central industrial and employers' federations from 33 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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