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EU INDUSTRIAL POLICY: AT LAST, A STEP FURTHER

The Commission has today presented a Communication on Industrial Policy that goes a step further towards the goal of strengthening of Europe's competitiveness. The paper recognises that, for fundamental strategic and economic reasons, the European Union needs a strong industrial base. In addition, the importance for the EU of strategic sectors is recognised.

An efficient industrial policy must be developed to enable companies to face global competition in all areas, but in particular in high-tech areas.

"UNICE supports the plan presented by the Commission today on the condition that it is implemented without delay and that results in terms of innovation, simplification of legislation and creation of competitive markets can be measured. It is about demonstrating a sustained will to foster industry in Europe" said Ernest-Antoine Seillière, UNICE President.

Finally, UNICE welcomes the Commission decision to put in place new sectoral consultation structures to discuss the specific content of the work programme. It also supports the creation of a High Level Group to pursue greater integration of EU competitiveness, energy and environment policies.

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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