

The Right Honourable Tony Blair MP
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
President of the European Council
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA
United Kingdom

13 December 2005

THE PRESIDENT

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Presidents of UNICE member federations, I would like to convey to you our strong request ahead of the next European Council of 15 – 16 December 2005 to finalise an agreement on the Financial Perspectives.

Taking into account the Commission's proposals and your own, we do think that it must be possible for European Member States to agree on the priorities and to fix the financial means to achieve common goals. If no agreement were to be reached, the credibility of European governance will be at stake.

As I have already mentioned to you, the European budget must be a tool to serve the goals fixed by the Lisbon agenda and therefore preserve the 8% per year increase for spending on competitiveness – notably on research – over the period 2007-2013.

The new Member States must have access to the full benefits of the cohesion policy, and in due course a far-reaching restructuring of relative priorities will be needed.

In order to restore the confidence of citizens and companies, we rely on you to finalise this deal.

You will find attached the other comments we wanted to make on the agenda of the European Council as well as on other related issues.

Yours sincerely,



Ernest-Antoine Seillière

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