

13 December 2005

REACH: STEP TOWARDS A REASONABLE AGREEMENT

The Council has today adopted a political common position on REACH which goes halfway towards the fully risk-based approach advocated by UNICE.

For registration, the Council – like the Parliament – has applied a risk-based approach only for information requirements for low-volume substances (i.e. produced or imported in the range of 1 to 10 tonnes). This will make REACH more cost-efficient for SMEs.

For authorisation of the use of the most dangerous substances, UNICE is of the view that appropriate control of this use should be a sufficient condition for unlimited authorisation. The system adopted by the Council foresees systematic analysis of alternatives and review clauses even in these cases. This could be detrimental to industrial processes without any added value for health protection.

Ernest-Antoine Seillière President of UNICE: *“Taking into account the margin for improvement in the second reading, today’s Council decision can be considered a step towards a reasonable agreement”.*

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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