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## **UNICE NOTES WITH INTEREST THE INTER-INSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT ON THE EU BUDGET**

UNICE supports the outcome of the inter-institutional negotiations on the financial perspectives 2007-2013, agreed on Tuesday evening.

This agreement bears witness to the will of the institutions to strike a reasonable compromise in good time to allow adoption of the legal bases needed for future EU action programmes.

In December the European Council reached a consensus giving priority to programmes capable of promoting European competitiveness (research, innovation, infrastructures, training). The additional resources decided by the institutions confirm this priority by earmarking more than half of the agreed € 4 billion for the corresponding programmes.

UNICE notes with interest the provisions of the inter-institutional agreement concerning better supervision of the management of EU funds, with a view to ensuring greater efficiency.

President Seillière said: *"I am pleased that the inter-institutional negotiations on a new multi-annual budget agreement have concluded. This agreement should allow the EU budget to be an effective instrument at the service of the Growth and Jobs strategy"*.

### **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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