



UNICE Seminar – 31 May 2006

THE EUROPEAN COMPANY STATUTE: A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE?

➤ Objectives

Further to the seminar UNICE organised in October 2004, the date of the entry into force of the European legislation creating a European Company Statute (*societas europeae* or SE), UNICE considers it is time to take stock of where we stand some eighteen months later.

On 31 May 2006, UNICE is organising a seminar on the SE Statute to hear directly from companies why they decided to (or not to) go for the SE Statute and to assess with specialists whether such a statute is a competitive advantage for companies in Europe.

The public declarations by certain companies that they would adopt the SE Statute have prompted UNICE to find out directly from market players (panel 1) why they have chosen to adopt the Statute – what are the decisive advantages that makes or could make the SE Statute the right choice for them?

Given the current economic environment (European business competing in a global environment, an increasing number of mergers and acquisitions, economic patriotism and current debates on national, European, and/or global champions) we would like to explore (panel 2) with participants whether the SE Statute is the appropriate tool for strengthening European business competitiveness. Is the SE Statute an option for SMEs? If not, what should be the alternative?

➤ Speakers – Participants

- Speakers shall be high-level representatives from the EU Commission and companies, Member of the European Parliament, legal experts.
- Participants shall be representatives of companies, business organisations, representatives, Member States and Members of the European Parliament. All will have the opportunity to ask questions to the panel of experts and provide their own views.

➤ Date – Time – Venue – Price

The Seminar is planned to take place on 31 May 2006, from 13.30 to 18.00 hours in the UNICE Conference Centre, 168 Av. de Cortenbergh, Brussels, followed by a drinks reception. The set price is **100,00 Euros (VAT incl.)**. For further information, please contact Ms Nathalie Dejong at nd@unice.be or +32 2 237 65 52

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13h30 Registration of participants

14h00 Welcome by Philippe de Buck,
UNICE Secretary General

14h15 Keynote Speech: Pierre Delsaux
– Acting Director – Directorate
"Free movement of Capital,
Company Law and Corporate
Governance", European
Commission

14h35 The European Company
Statute: why go for it?

Moderator: *Jérôme P. Chauvin* – UNICE,
Director Legal Affairs
Department

- *Dr. Hans-Konrad Röss*, Allianz AG -
Head of Legal M&A/Corporate Division
- *Minna Aila*, Elcoteq SE – Project Director
- *Mr Pierre Florin* – AXA GIE, Deputy
Director General

Questions from the floor

16h00 Coffee break

16h30 European Company Statute:
an appropriate tool to
strengthen European
competitiveness?

Moderator: *Philippe Lambrecht* – FEB-
VBO (Belgian business
federation), Secretary General

- *Mr Christian Chéry* - Loyens & Loeff,
Attorney at Law, Head of the Tax
Department
- *Mr Jean Cattaruzza* – Legal Counsel
ING Belgium
- *Klaus Heiner Lehne* – Member of the
European Parliament

Questions from the floor

17h45 Concluding Remarks

18h00 Drinks Reception