



→ *Chapman*

28 April 2006

Mr José Manuel Barroso  
President of the  
European Commission  
200 rue de la Loi  
1049 Bruxelles

THE PRESIDENT

Dear President, *cher ami,*

UNICE is very pleased about the increasing emphasis which the Commission is putting on better regulation as a crucial tool for promoting competitiveness and it warmly supports the considerable efforts that have been made in this respect. With great interest UNICE has now taken note of the ambitious idea to strive for a 25% reduction of bureaucratic costs for entrepreneurs. This would be another important next step in the process of rendering Community legislation cost-effective by effectively reducing burdens.

Too much red tape is one of the most common complaints from businesses and the cumulative effect of many regulations and formalities is to slow down business responsiveness, divert resources away from productive investments and discourage entrepreneurship. Information about the size of existing bureaucratic burdens and a quantified goal for the reduction of these burdens will not only greatly help businesses to compete more effectively but it will also raise awareness about the need for cost reduction and generate support for concrete proposals.

Previously, UNICE stated that better regulation is a continuous and ongoing process and that we are embarking on a long journey which has only just begun. We are very pleased that at this early stage another important step may be taken considering the importance that concrete results will boost confidence in the overall worth of the better regulation project. As always, UNICE offers you its input and know-how on how best to shape and implement policy in this area to help ensuring that continuous progress is made towards the reduction of costs of legislation in Europe.

Yours sincerely,

Ernest-Antoine Seillière