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FOR EUROPEAN BUSINESS, THE FUTURE OF EUROPE MUST BE DECIDED, NOT JUST TALKED ABOUT

UNICE – the Confederation of European Business – reacted today to the Commission communication on “Future of Europe”, which is intended to launch a debate on Europe’s future at the June European Council. To boost Europe, UNICE has already stressed repeatedly that the following questions should be addressed through concrete actions:

- Reforms for growth and jobs
- Integration of European markets has lost momentum
- Enlargement of the European Union which must be considered as an opportunity rather than a threat
- Governance of the European Union which is not efficient.

If it is important that the Commission initiates this debate, more important will be the concrete decisions which will be taken at the European Council on 15-16 June 2006. If the intention of this process is to delay efficient decisions, the Commission should be aware that this will create even more resistance vis-à-vis Europe.

UNICE President Ernest-Antoine Seillière: *“I fear that there is no sense of urgency in this communication. The growth and jobs strategy must still be the Commission’s main target and we all know that it is not being implemented properly. I hope that the Austrian presidency will take a strong initiative at the June European Council meeting to accelerate the process and to propose adequate solutions. If the European Union is able to function properly, it will regain the support it deserves.”*

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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