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SERVICES DIRECTIVE: LET US MAKE THE BEST OF IT!

Now that a political agreement has been reached in the Competitiveness Council yesterday, UNICE acknowledges that legislative discussion on this proposal is coming to an end.

Progress has been made on freedom of establishment, screening of national requirements, quality of services and information to recipients, and transnational administrative cooperation. UNICE is particularly pleased with the screening and notification process for national requirements that can be imposed on providers. This will increase transparency and counterbalance to some extent the legal uncertainty.

Nevertheless, UNICE still regrets the excessively reduced scope of the directive and the legal uncertainty as regards the applicable law for cross-border provision of services.

Ernest-Antoine Seillière, President of UNICE: *“The result of very difficult negotiations, this proposal, although insufficiently ambitious, is a promising step towards creation of a genuine internal market for services in the EU. We therefore have to make the best of it.*

“When the legislative process has been completed, it is vital that Member States transpose and implement it correctly and in good time so that the expected contribution to the growth and job strategy is fully realised. UNICE and its national members will closely follow this process and will contribute actively.”

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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