

UNICE

THE VOICE OF BUSINESS IN EUROPE

Ms Anne Van Lancker
Member of the European Parliament
rue Wiertz, 60
1047 Brussels

14 June 2005

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear Ms Van Lancker,

Beste Anne,

In view of the forthcoming discussions in the EP Employment and Social Affairs Committee on the proposed directive on services in the internal market, I would like to inform you that UNICE has serious concerns regarding the draft opinion on the proposal that you prepared and that a letter has been sent to your colleagues in the Parliament. A copy of that letter is at annex for your information.

Services activities play a key role for economic growth and employment in Europe. More than 10 years after the deadline for completion of the internal market for services and despite the fact that freedom of establishment and freedom to provide cross-border services are enshrined in the EU treaty, obstacles to these fundamental freedoms continue to restrict our economic growth and employment potential. Tackling these obstacles is key to bridge the delivery gap in growth and employment and to reinvigorate the European economy.

UNICE believes that your proposal will not achieve the objectives pursued, in particular removal of obstacles to cross-border trade in services and creation of a well-functioning internal market for services and could even lead to further restrictions.

UNICE is particularly concerned about the very limited application of the country of origin principle which would apply only to matters already harmonised at EU level or by the proposed directive itself. Also of concern are the general exclusions from application of the country of origin of broad areas of law, notably regarding labour law.

All these far-reaching exclusions and the very limited application of the country of origin principle reduce dramatically the added value of the directive and its ability to attain the objectives pursued.

I hope that you will take into account our concerns on this important matter and look forward to further discussions with you.

Yours sincerely,

*Wij spreken ervoor op 27 juni!
Vriendelijke groet.*

Philippe de Buck

