

To: Members of the Internal Market and
Consumer Protection Committee of the
European Parliament

3 October 2006

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear Sir or Madam,

Subject: Second reading amendments to the Services Directive

In view of your discussions in second reading on the services directive, UNICE would like to reiterate its view that the Council's common position of 24 July 2006 should be respected and the compromises made should not be unravelled.

UNICE believes that the changes to the Commission's initial proposal agreed have diminished the potency of the directive to open the EU market for services and raise uncertainty about the way the "freedom to provide services" principle and its derogations will be interpreted and implemented.

However UNICE considers that there are benefits to be expected from this new legislation, mainly for establishment, regulatory simplification and administrative cooperation. That is why we urge you to seek its rapid adoption.

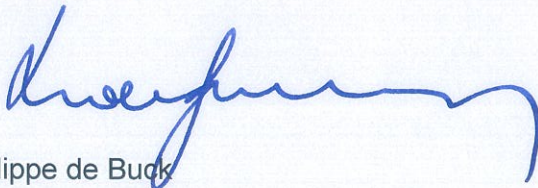
UNICE is certain that reopening the debate on the Council's text would put the entire compromise package in peril and might lead to undesired results.

UNICE has examined the amendments tabled for consideration in your Committee and considers that they clearly challenge the Council's compromise. We are of the view that either the amendments do not offer added value compared with the Council's text or, more importantly, modify core parts of the Council's position.

UNICE therefore urges the Members of the Committee not to support the amendments tabled and to push for rapid adoption of the directive.

We remain at your disposal should you wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,



Philippe de Buck