



UNICE

Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe

Union des Confédérations de l'Industrie et des Employeurs d'Europe

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BENCHMARKING EUROPE'S COMPETITIVENESS: FROM ANALYSIS TO ACTION

UNICE, the voice of business in Europe, today launched its new report on **'Benchmarking Europe's competitiveness: from analysis to action'**.

Commenting on this new benchmarking exercise, François Perigot, President of UNICE, and Georges Jacobs, Chairman of UNICE's "Competitiveness" working group, stressed the importance of improving the environment in which companies can develop and operate. "There is nothing inevitable about weak European competitiveness, since some countries are clearly doing better than others. What business now expects is not further analysis, but concrete action", said Mr Perigot.

Over the past two decades, there has been a relative decline of European competitive performance, reflected by growing levels of unemployment.

Taking this unsatisfactory situation as its starting point, the report outlines the major framework conditions affecting the business environment. It identifies certain competitiveness indicators, compares performance within and outside Europe, highlighting links between public policies, global economic performance and employment. The report makes a series of recommendations for action :

- Action ... **to improve the European business environment;**
- Action ... **to streamline the public sector and make it more effective;**
- Action ... **to reduce the weight of burdens imposed on companies;**
- Action ... **to reform labour markets.**

For further information, contact: Daniela Israelachwili (32 2- 237 6521), Christophe de Callatay (237 65 15)
or Alistair MacIntyre Currie (237 65 62)