

Mr M. Monti

Member of the European
Commission
BREY 11/44
Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 - Brussels

DFH/RL/16/1

14 December 1998

Dear Mr Monti,

Re : *Single Market Action Plan and Scoreboard*

UNICE supports the present work by the Commission in the field of the Single Market Action Plan and Single Market Scoreboard. UNICE also supports the political objectives of eliminating the remaining distortions and sector obstacles, enabling the Single Market to work better for consumers as well as for business.

The prerequisite for successful implementation of as well as follow-up to the Action Plan is close and constructive co-operation and co-ordination between the Council, the European Parliament, the Commission and all Member States (including also EEA members). At the Internal Market Council on 9 November, the Commission presented an updated version of Scoreboard. The three Presidencies (Austria, Germany and Finland) presented a Progress Report on the implementation of the Single Market Action Plan and Joint Work Programme for the months ahead on the Single Market. UNICE mainly supports the actions planned in the Joint Work Programme.

UNICE stresses the importance of the continued momentum to implement the Single Market fully. Important issues for the future are:

- continued pressure on all Member States to eliminate the backlog of transposition, application and enforcement of Single Market legislation into national laws and regulations. Co-operation between enforcement authorities in the EEA Member States should be made more efficient.
- ongoing deep involvement in matters such as product harmonisation, standardisation and mutual recognition.

- tests of "real lifting of barriers" in the Scoreboards. UNICE stresses the importance for business of improved procedures to prevent creation of new barriers to the Single Market by the constantly increasing flow of new national regulations, especially in the field of environmental and consumer regulations.
- focus, in line with the Commission ambition, on quality data regarding enforcement issues. In order to support business and consumer confidence, problems need to be sorted out more quickly.
- information on how problem-solving structures function in the different Member States. "Best Practice" examples should be highlighted.
- rapid and effective implementation of the proposals in the Action Plan presented in the Commission's Communication "Promoting Entrepreneurship and competitiveness". Attention should be given to all means that can lead to simplification and reduction of the regulatory framework, both at Community and national level.

The measures mentioned in the Action Plan are only the tip of iceberg on the route to full European integration. By putting objective information of each EEA Member State's performance in the public eye, it is possible to tackle the remaining Single Market obstacles. The Scoreboard is therefore now, in UNICE's view, evolving into an excellent management tool.

Yours sincerely,

D.F. Hudig
Secretary General

Addressees : Mr M. Monti, Member of the European Commission
Mr J. Mogg, Director-General, DGXV
Mr K. Johannssen, Secretary General EFTA Surveillance Authority