

DFH/JPC/nd/22.5/16/1

9 February 1999

Mr Martin Bangemann  
Member of the  
European Commission  
BREY 10/128  
Rue de la Loi, 200  
B-1049 Bruxelles

Dear Mr Bangemann,

UNICE is extremely pleased that the Commission has finally tabled a proposal to postpone by ten additional years the end of the transition period provided for in Article 3 of Directive 89/617/EEC allowing supplementary indication of units of measurement (in both metric and imperial).

As the representative of all sectors of industry, UNICE has been heavily involved in the debate over the last year and has constantly voiced its concerns about the consequences that prohibition of dual labelling would have on European companies.

UNICE believes that the Commission decision is therefore a sensible one and that these additional ten years should allow further talks with the USA in order to reach a final agreement on the use of one single world-wide standard for units of measurements.

UNICE will urge both the European parliament and the Council to adopt the commission proposal as it stands as soon as possible.

We thank you for your support on this issue and will remain in contact with the Commission services on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

*(original signed by)*

Dirk F. Hudig  
Secretary General

cc: Mr Helmut Schmitt von Sydow, Director, DGIII/H  
Mr Joseph Putzeys, Head of Unit, DG III/D/2  
Mrs Mairead Buckley, DG III/D/2