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## **UNICE: REVIEW 'MUTUAL RECOGNITION' TOP PRIORITY NEW COMMISSION AND PARLIAMENT**

By submitting its views on "The functioning of mutual recognition in the internal market", UNICE wishes to contribute to enhancing the efficiency of the principle of mutual recognition. Its well-functioning should be one of the top priorities for the new European Commission and Parliament.

The difficulty in applying the principle of mutual recognition has become more and more obvious and a major problem in the proper functioning of the Single Market. Companies still meet barriers to trade on a European market fragmented by national product requirements. 41% of the obstacles identified by European firms in the Single Market Scoreboard, inhibiting companies to do business, were related to differing national specifications or standards. Many of them are linked to areas where there are no harmonised directives or where the scope is limited for harmonised directives. In these cases mutual recognition is the guiding principle for assuring market access.

UNICE wants to address the problems that arise with mutual recognition and puts forward recommendations on how this can be made more efficient. Firstly, the notification system needs to be refined. Secondly, mutual recognition of certificates and tests should be promoted. Thirdly, exchanges of information and administrative cooperation must be reinforced. UNICE also puts mutual recognition into a global context. The globalisation of European industry has greatly increased the need for global harmonisation and alignment of product requirements.

One of the most important conclusions in the UNICE paper is that harmonisation is often the preferred model for industry. A harmonised European market in many cases is a prerequisite for a multilateral dismantling of technical barriers to trade and global alignment of product requirements. The development of the Single Market strongly affects the global competitiveness of European industry, where products are becoming more complex and the time span to develop and market products more short.

*"UNICE Position Paper on the functioning of mutual recognition on the internal market"*

