

Brussels, 28 November 2000

STRONG CALL BY UNICE TO STRENGTHEN EU NEGOTIATING POWER
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On 28 November, the Commission organised in Brussels a symposium on the "Challenge of Globalisation: the European Union Market Access Strategy". On that occasion, Dirk F. Hudig, Secretary General of UNICE, called strongly for a change of the Treaty regarding article 133 which governs Community trade policy. "The Commission cannot negotiate on trade with one hand tied behind its back" he said.

Mr Dirk Hudig called for the extension of article 133 to services, intellectual property and investment. For European business, market access means more than export of goods, it also covers services, investment, intellectual property and all elements which render company's activities in third countries possible or impossible. "Heads of State, who will meet in the European Council in Nice, need to equip EU negotiators to be able to do their job effectively" he added.

Mr Dirk Hudig expressed the full support of European business for the EU's Market Access Strategy as an efficient and constructive way to tackle market access barriers encountered by companies in third countries. This strategy makes it possible to take action at the right level and to make full use of the existing range of bilateral, regional and multilateral instruments. The market access information system is delivering concrete and measurable results.

Finally, he underlined that the globalised economy needs further market access liberalisation. To achieve that objective, for European business, the best vehicle is the launch of a new, comprehensive WTO trade round, as soon as possible. Such an approach is the best one to allow all WTO members to gain in further liberalisation of markets.

The full text of D.F. Hudig's intervention is available on UNICE website: www@unice.org.