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SUPPORTING INNOVATION MUST BE A PRIORITY FOR THE EU

Europe needs to boost its innovation in high-tech technologies. This is why UNICE has consistently supported the EU Council's common position regarding the proposed directive on the patentability of computer-implemented inventions as a balanced compromise providing the conditions and limits within which Europe's innovators can protect their computer-implemented inventions.

After a long and difficult debate, the European Parliament took the understandable decision to reject the common position, in order to avoid re-opening an unpredictable discussion on the long-standing basic concepts and definitions of industrial property protection, which would have harmed innovative companies in Europe, small, medium-sized and large.

UNICE's Secretary General Philippe de Buck commented: *"We are living in a digital world. Europe's capacity to innovate in new technologies will be key in boosting the European economy and providing additional jobs and growth. This is particularly important for SMEs. Supporting innovation in the high-tech sector must be a priority for the EU. UNICE is prepared to participate in the debate on any initiatives that might be taken."*

Note to the editor:

UNICE is the voice of more than 20 million small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, UNICE's members are 38 central industrial and employers federations from 32 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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