

Mr Günter Verheugen  
Vice President  
European Commission  
1049 Brussels

29 September 2005

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear President,

***re: EU industrial policy***

Early October the Commission will adopt the Communication on modern industrial policy.

UNICE supported the general conceptual approach proposed by the Commission in 2002 for developing a modernised EU industrial policy. In particular, we found it very useful that the Commission started by highlighting the synergies that can be developed between the different EU policies and the various EU instruments with a view to strengthening the competitiveness of European industry. UNICE hopes that, as we were informed, with the new communication, the Commission will describe in a more precise way how EU industrial policy can be implemented, by proposing sectoral and cross-sectoral initiatives based on an analysis of the challenges which confront the different industries.

UNICE is satisfied to note that the future communication is based on the idea that healthy competition is essential to maintain a strong industrial base in Europe.

The Industrial Policy Work Programme currently being prepared should represent a major strategic project in order to involve all the Commissioners responsible for policies which impact industrial development, including research, innovation, training, energy, environment and trade.

In operational terms, UNICE considers that putting in place new strategic reflection bodies would be extremely useful to allow development of the integrated responses called for by the industrial, energy and environmental challenges.

The territorial dimension of industrial policy should not be neglected. Territories characterised by strong industrial dynamism share a number of potentialities, challenges and problems. UNICE urges the Commission to consider this dimension and to evaluate which initiatives could be launched with a view to drawing on the experience of highly industrialised regions in Europe. As a first step, the Commission could consider promoting networking of these regions with a view to facilitating an exchange of best practice in the area of encouraging industrial development.

Thank you for the attention you may give to these views.

Yours sincerely,

*best regards,*  


Philippe de Buck