

22 May 2002

**COMMUNITY PATENT:
UNICE CALLS FOR AN APPROPRIATE INSTRUMENT TO ENHANCE EUROPEAN
COMPETITIVENESS**

UNICE takes note of the progress made on the Community patent dossier at the Internal Market Council meeting held on 21 May 2002.

However, five months after the deadline set by Lisbon for adoption of a Community patent, industry remains concerned that discussions have not attained the objectives set in Lisbon in terms of cost and attractiveness of the proposed instrument.

If some Member States continue to call for translation of all or part of the Community patent into all EU languages European inventors will never have competitive tools vis-à-vis their US and Japanese counterparts. In this context, translation of claims into all EU languages is unacceptable for industry.

UNICE urges the Spanish Presidency to continue its efforts to progress and conclude discussions on this topic in the near future.

Support for innovation in Europe is at stake and it is now high time for Member States to assume their responsibility in this matter.

The latest UNICE comment can be found at www.unice.org

Note to the editor:

UNICE is the official voice of more than 16 million small, medium and large companies active in Europe, employing over 106 million people. Active in European affairs since 1958, UNICE's members are 34 central industrial and employers federations from 27 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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