



19 April 2002

Dear Ambassador,

CLECAT, ECASBA, ECSA, ESC and UNICE refer to their letter of 4 February, expressing strong support of European industry to the proposed Directive on free market access to port services.

We represent the producers and logistic providers of European trade and our Membership is directly involved in 90 % of European trade transported by sea. UNICE alone represents more than 16 million European companies.

The European Council's call on the Transport Ministers at the Barcelona summit to adopt the proposed Directive on free market access to port services by the end of 2002, is warmly welcomed by our members. We are, however, alarmed to note that the representatives of your government have adopted a rather negative attitude towards the proposed Directive.

The liberalisation of port services is essential to improve the overall supply chain of goods and to make the European economy more competitive. The quality of ports does not only depend on cranes and infrastructure and on public money injected in it, but primarily on the service rendered. In this respect a modern business approach, more efficiency and open markets within ports are key elements.

European industry would strongly welcome your government's support towards the liberalisation process in the further discussions on the proposed Directive. Such legislative measures would enhance the efficiency and the competitiveness of port services. It would be regrettable if Europe were to miss this opportunity for further increasing its competitive position within the global economy upon which employment and wealth are based.

European industry is open to an exchange of views on suggestions that may improve the practical application of the Directive. We would be grateful if you could arrange for this letter to be brought to the attention of your Minister and experts in charge of this issue.

Yours faithfully,

CLECAT Original signed by	ECASBA Original signed by	ECSA Original signed by	ESC Original signed by	UNICE Original signed by
I. Sørensen Director-General	U. Masucci Chairman	A. Guinier Secretary General	A. Traill Acting Secretary	P. de Buck Secretary General

Cc: Transport Attaché