

17 June 2005

REALISTIC AMBITIONS REQUIRED TO FURTHER REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

Industry continues to be the major contributor to the delivery of improving air quality, investing a large proportion of the €66 billion/year estimated by DG Environment to be required to implement existing air quality legislation up to 2020.

Industry is willing to contribute to the Commission's efforts to improve air quality further but we have asked from the outset that forward strategies are established on the basis of:

- robust scientific information;
- integrated assessment of a wide range of emission sources, multiple pollutants and multiple effects, and
- identification of attainable air quality improvements through cost-effective policy measures.

UNICE has contributed to the Clean Air for Europe Programme which led up to the development of a Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution – helping to resolve technical problems and providing critical review where necessary.

In a letter to President Barroso sent by UNICE on 7 June 2005, UNICE outlined industry's significant concerns relating to forthcoming proposals for an EU Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution. The letter points out that UNICE is very concerned that current and overly ambitious proposals to further improve air quality would be either unattainable or require disproportionate investments at Member State level, by a range of sectors including agriculture, industry, transport and others.

The UNICE letter to President Barroso of 7 June 2005 can be read at www.unice.org

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.