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REFORM OF THE LABOUR MARKET NEEDS FLEXIBILITY AND NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

UNICE reacted today to the Commission Green Paper on Labour Law aimed at stimulating an EU-wide debate on how to adapt labour law to ensure flexibility as well as security. Reform of labour law is needed and this paper shows that labour flexibility has made insufficient progress. UNICE will be happy to participate actively in the debate.

But for UNICE, the competence to modernise labour law rests primarily with national players. This is the reason why UNICE strongly opposes suggestions of an EU-wide definition of “worker”.

Modernising labour law must be part of the flexicurity debate. Therefore it should be based on a sound analysis and not oppose flexibility and security. Flexibility on the labour market is the only way to create more jobs in the European Union.

The Green Paper issued by the Commission does not sufficiently underline that self-employment is key for the development of the entrepreneurial mindset we so badly miss in Europe.

UNICE will issue a more detailed reaction at a later date and will actively promote labour market reforms in Member States.

Ernest-Antoine Seillière, President of UNICE: *“Efforts have been made to make the Green Paper more balanced. However, the text is still too focused on how to preserve existing employment instead of looking for ways to facilitate the creation of more new jobs through increased labour market flexibility”.*

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 39 central industrial and employers' federations from 33 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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