

To: Members of the Internal Market and
Consumer Protection Committee of the
European Parliament

11 September 2006

Dear Sir or Madam,

Subject: Second reading on the Services Directive

In the light of the current scenario and the hard-fought compromises made by all EU institutions for which your Committee played a decisive role, UNICE and EuroCommerce urge Committee Members to take up the common position of the Council on the proposal for a directive on services as adopted on 24 July 2006.

The Council text is largely based on the first reading compromises agreed by the Parliament and that were endorsed by the Commission. European business considers that despite the modifications made to the Commission's proposal, the Council's text is a first step towards creation of a genuine internal market for services in the EU.

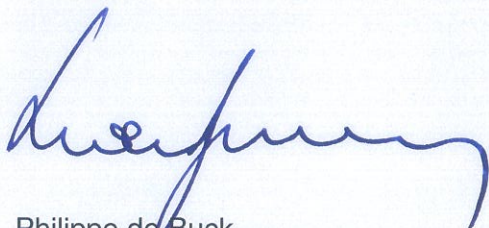
UNICE and EuroCommerce believe that reopening the debate will put at risk the balance of interests achieved and most likely lead to inconsistent results.

Both organisations support rapid adoption of the proposal. The Council's common position should be endorsed, in particular provisions regarding article 16 on freedom to provide services and 39.5 on mutual evaluation. European business also wants to stress the importance of the provisions on administrative cooperation to make sure that cross-border activities are not subject to multiple controls and unnecessary red tape.

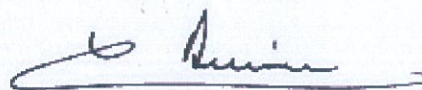
Following adoption, action should focus on correct and timely national transposition and implementation of the directive. Of particular importance is the obligation on Member States to notify, screen and simplify their national regulations and procedures.

We hope you will take the above views into account and contribute to the adoption of this important proposal without further delay.

Yours sincerely,



Philippe de Buck
UNICE Secretary General



Xavier R Durieu
EuroCommerce Secretary General