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SERVICES DIRECTIVE: THERE ARE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MODIFIED PROPOSAL BUT UNICE ASKS FOR A BROADER SCOPE

Reacting to the Commission's modified proposal on the services directive and Communication on posting of workers agreed today, UNICE notes useful elements of clarification but regrets unnecessary restrictions in the internal market for services.

UNICE believes that the new proposal for a services directive will improve the freedom of establishment in the European Union and approves the provisions dealing with reduction of red tape and administrative cooperation between public authorities.

Nevertheless, UNICE regrets that the Commission has endorsed the drastically reduced scope of the directive. For example, the exclusion without any justification of temporary agency work, for which the posting of workers directive foresees the application of host country rules, is unjustified.

Moreover, the new provisions on applicable law in case of cross-border provision of services remain too vague and will necessitate abundant jurisprudence to clarify their meaning.

UNICE welcomes the communication on posting of workers, which describes which national control measures are accepted by existing European jurisprudence and highlights the need for Member States to improve information and step up their administrative cooperation.

Ernest-Antoine Seillière, President of UNICE: *"I am pleased to note that the Commission has introduced some improvements but I regret it has failed to ensure a broad scope by excluding temporary work, and missed the opportunity to clarify the provisions on applicable law."*

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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