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THIS IS NOT THE SERVICES DIRECTIVE EUROPE NEEDS

Reacting to the results of the vote on the services directive, UNICE considers that the European Parliament has deprived the directive of most of its capacity to create growth and jobs in Europe.

Cross-border services will not be facilitated. Too many sectors are excluded from the scope. Application of legislation of the provider's country of establishment is undermined by many derogations. It leaves excessive power for Member States to restrict services for multiple reasons which go way beyond well-founded reasons of public interest and could lead to protectionism. This will create great legal uncertainty for both companies and customers.

The exclusion of labour law from the scope of the directive was not necessary as the posting of workers directive already adequately regulates the conditions for sending workers on temporary missions abroad. The Parliament also excludes temporary work agencies, which contribute to smooth functioning of labour markets and offer job opportunities.

The only positive achievement left in the directive concerns freedom of establishment.

Ernest-Antoine Seillière, President of UNICE concluded: *"After this vote in the European Parliament it remains the duty of the Commission to secure a real internal market for services. The goal must be to remove obstacles and to create new activities. 600,000 to 800,000 new jobs are at stake."*

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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