

10 January 2005

**RE: MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE LISBON STRATEGY**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear Member of the EP Lisbon Strategy Coordination Group,

I commend you on your participation in the Lisbon Strategy Coordination Working Group which has to play a vital role for making the mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy a success, especially in two respects:

**1. Development of a priority list for the work programme in the European Parliament**

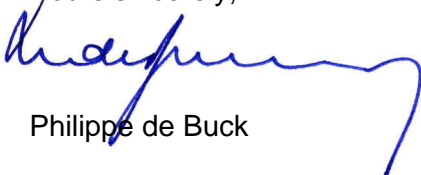
The Lisbon Strategy is overloaded with objectives. In order to be effective it must refocus on the most pressing shortcomings in Europe on which all other objectives depend: creating growth and jobs. The Lisbon Strategy Coordination Group should therefore come up with a list of Parliamentary legislative dossiers whose outcome is of vital importance for achieving the Lisbon objectives. Among them would certainly figure the creation of an internal market for services and a workable chemicals legislation package that does not endanger the competitiveness of European companies. For further information on our Lisbon priorities, please find our position on the mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy attached to this letter.

**2. Mobilisation of national parliaments and citizens to create ownership of the Lisbon Strategy**

UNICE ardently supports the proposal made in the Wim Kok Report on the mid-term review that each member-state government should draw up an action programme for national implementation of the Lisbon Strategy, and discuss it with national parliaments, stakeholders and the wider public. Therefore, our members have launched *national initiatives for competitiveness*: each national business federation urges its government to prepare such a programme and discuss it with its national parliament. We think that the European Parliament, and this coordination group in particular, can contribute to promoting the idea of national action programmes among your colleagues in national parliaments, and we are happy to offer you our collaboration in mobilising, through our member federations, national parliamentarians for any initiative you intend to undertake. Also attached you will find the letter from UNICE President Jürgen Strube to Presidents of all national business federations launching this initiative which was announced at the UNICE Competitiveness Day on 9 December 2004 in the European Parliament.

I wish you every success in your work in the Coordination Group and kindly ask you to contact me if I can be of further help.

Yours sincerely,



Philippe de Buck