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35bis, rue Jouffroy-d'Abbans
F-75017 Paris, France

T: +33 (0)1 42 67 99 12
F: +33 (0)1 42 27 19 29

E: lili@ufi.org
www.ufi.org

UN Recognises Meeting and Exhibition Sector as Distinct Economic Activity

July 27, 2005 – Paris: The United Nations Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications has announced that the profession of meeting and exhibition organisers will be included as a distinct sector in their "International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities" (ISIC, Rev 4 provisional draft).

Vincent Gérard, UFI Managing Director, welcomed the UN decision, saying he was, "glad that the exhibition and meeting industry sector has been recognised as an important and significant industry sector. We would like to stress that the exhibition and meeting industry sector, along with the tourism sector, makes an important impact on local and national economies. UFI is convinced that countries that have intensified their links with the global economy through exhibitions have usually grown more rapidly over a sustained period of time clearly showing that exhibitions are an important tool for business development."

UFI stands ready to work with partnering organisations on the development of specific measurement procedures to demonstrate the exhibition sector's global economic impact and to support the tourism sector. UFI is actually in Singapore participating in the first meeting of the International Standards Organisation (ISO) Working Group on Exhibition Terminology.

UFI has submitted its own industry definitions to the ISO Working Group for their consideration. As the global association of the exhibition industry representing organisers, venue managers and suppliers, UFI's standards are currently applied by the leaders of the exhibition industry around the globe.

UFI, the global association of the exhibition industry, promotes, serves and represents the trade fair and exhibition industry worldwide. Via its 293 member organisations, including the world's leading show organisers and fairground owners, and 42 national and international professional associations, UFI is present in 72 countries in 162 cities on 5 continents. Members are responsible for the management and operation of over 4,500 exhibitions around the world.

For additional information please contact:

UFI

Ms Lili Eigl, Manager Communications
35bis, rue Jouffroy-d'Abbans, F-75017 Paris
tel: +33 (0)1 42 67 99 12
email: lili@ufi.org website: www.ufi.org