



## PREPARATIONS ARE WELL UNDERWAY FOR UITIC'S XII INTERNATIONAL FOOTWEAR TECHNOLOGY CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN PORTO, PORTUGAL FROM 17th TO 19th OCTOBER 1996.

THE CONGRESS IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE PORTUGUESE FOOTWEAR TECHNICAL CENTRE IN CONJUNCTION WITH UITIC, THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOOTWEAR TECHNICIANS.

At its recent meetings in Porto, Milan and Taufkirchen (Austria), the Executive Committee of UITIC discussed the organisation of the Congress and the definition of the speakers is now being finalised.

### INNOVATIONS

For this Congress there are a number of innovations which can be summarised as follows.

### Frequency

The Congress will now be held every three years instead of two. This is to synchronise it with the Pirmasens Machinery Fair, which is also held every three years. Holding the UITIC Congress a few months before the Pirmasens Fair will give suppliers the opportunity to disclose developments which they plan

which they plan to present at the fair, as well as reporting results from equipment presented at previous fairs.

### Programme

At previous Congresses, the first day has been dedicated to visits to shoe factories followed by a day and a half of conference sessions. According to opinion, this makes the Congress tedious. At the XII Congress, it has been decided to keep the same overall duration of the Congress but it will be intended to dedicate, if cost allows, the three mornings (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) to conference sessions and the two afternoons (Thursday and Friday) to factory visits.

It is hoped that this formula will prove more acceptable for both foreign participants as well as to local Portuguese delegates who may wish to return to their companies in the afternoons. It will avoid overlong conference sessions.

## UITIC CONGRESS, THE MOST IMPORTANT WORLDWIDE MEETING ON FOOTWEAR TECHNOLOGY

The International Union of Footwear Technicians have been organising Congresses for more than 20 years; at the next Congress, it is intended to review, with practical experience, the development of technology in the last three years, as well as future outlook. Around 400 footwear managers and technicians, from more than 20 countries, will have the opportunity of exchanging experiences on the main subjects that affect their competitiveness.

The venue will be Portugal (Porto), probably the European country which has technologically developed the most in the last few years. During the Congress we will be able to hear about the latest technology developments in our sector at firsthand, as the conference will include factory visits, as well as lecture sessions.

Taking into account that the industry need to be more dynamic in order to meet market needs, by punctually answering the demand, it is important to keep well informed on every aspect which concern them. This is a great opportunity for doing so, live and in a few days.

### CONFERENCE SESSIONS

In general, the presentations will be made by company technicians who have experimented in practice the themes which are exposed, avoiding theoretical and publicity approaches.

The speeches will be arranged according to the logical order of footwear manufacture:

### DESIGN:

Companies experiences in computer aided design will be presented, both for footwear and components, and for the preparation of electronic catalogues.

### SUPPLY:

Problems of managing supplies, quality, new materials and environmental legislation will be tackled.

### CUTTING:

Water-jet cutting, consideration on the ecological aspects in the cutting and automation of the stitch marking process.

### STITCHING:

Advances in automatic stitching seen by the users of these systems and staff training will be treated in this session.

### LASTING:

Production organisation, new technologies and nontoxic bonding methods will be discussed.

### DISTRIBUTION:

Telematic communications with distributors (Internet...) and specific products like ecological footwear, will be tackled in this session.



## OUR MEMBERS

## FRENCH ASSOCIATION OF FOOTWEAR TECHNICIANS (AFTIC)

Created in 1965, AFTIC was one of the main driving forces in the creation of UITIC, even giving up its logo which now represents the Union.

It is divided into four regional sections, to facilitate contact between technicians. Each section organizes two meetings a year in which presentations are given on production and management techniques, or new materials presented at the last trade fairs, and visits to companies are organized.

Through AFTIC's experience these meetings have become the starting point for collective public awareness action for new technology: CAD, computer management, cutting, production

On a national level meetings are organized to mark French or International trade fairs, or, within the framework of interprofessional meetings, to discuss current issues.

In 1972, AFTIC promoted the first international footwear congress, which was the forerunner to UITIC. In 1989 it organised the IX International Congress of UITIC in Nantes, its theme being flexibility.

The Association is run by a Board of Directors made up of 21 members from all footwear-related professions. This Board is designated by Parliament for a period of 3 years, a third of it being renewable every year. Its Governing Board includes a President, Vice

President, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, Treasurer and an Assistant Treasurer, and is elected annually.

The 4 regional sections have their head offices in Lyon (Ródano-Alpes), Cholet (West), Lyon (South-East), Lyon (East).

In 1994, the Association brought together more than 500 technicians in 8 regional meetings and 2 national meetings.



## UITIC News

### EDITING

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