



SUCCESS OF THE XII UITIC CONGRESS IN OPORTO

THE XII INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL FOOTWEAR CONGRESS HELD FROM 17TH TO 19TH OF OCTOBER 1996 IN PORTUGAL, WAS A REAL SUCCESS IN ATTENDANCE AND THE QUALITY OF THE PRESENTATIONS MADE.

The record attendance achieved in Athens, with 412 delegates, was exceeded. This time, 512 footwear technicians participated from 22 different countries, emphasising the importance of Portuguese, German and Spanish participation as much as that of new countries attending the Congress for the first time, as in the case of the Ukraine.

Several modifications were made to this Congress, compared to previous ones, like for example, holding the conferences sessions in the morning, so that the afternoons could be dedicated to visiting different factories.

In the opening session chaired by the Portuguese Minister of Industry, a review of the general situation of the footwear industry was carried out. As a conclusion, we can emphasize, according to Mr. Smets of the European Footwear Confederation, that the future of European Industry is passing through a revaluation of footwear, in such a way that the consumer will appreciate the different features of European footwear. In this way, the increase in internal consumption is

promoted. The talks presented by the different technicians dealt with materials with better performance, new production and commercialization tools, quality assurance systems and environmental management etc.

In the afternoons, different visits to footwear factories were carried out in Sao Joao da Madeira and Felgueiras. The high degree of technology achieved in their production chains, gave a good impression. Portugal has notably increased its production in the last decade, placing itself in third position on a European level, after Italy and Spain. The Portuguese firms are very modern, and all of those visited (eight in total), have

the most advanced technology in terms of design, stitching, cutting, manufacture and transport systems.

Also, during the Congress, the General Assembly of members of UITIC was held, in which the innovations produced in the intercongress period were reported on, in terms of new members, the financial situation, new activities etc. Likewise, the renewal of the Executive Committee was carried out, with Dr. César Orgilés being reelected as President.



As we outlined in our first edition of "UITIC News" published in March 95, a UITIC Award has been established, to recognise at an international level, the work of those who contribute particularly to the technological development of the footwear industries, whether it be for their contribution to the actual footwear sector, or the related industries.

The UITIC Executive Committee met in Taufkirchen (Austria) on 26th of February 1996 and voted for the different candidates presented by the members, and decided to grant the Award to the following people:

Dr. Wilhelm Fischer, in the scientific category
Dr. Wolfgang Schlamp, in the technical category
Dr. Kurt Seyboldt, in the business category



NEXT INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL FOOTWEAR CONGRESS



As agreed by the Executive Committee, and announced in the General UITIC Assembly, the XIII International Technical Footwear Congress will take place in Fermo (Italy) in 1999, organised by ANCI, Italian Association of Footwear Manufacturers in the name of the Union of Technicians in the Footwear Industry.

Fermo is situated in the Marche region, a zone with a large geographical concentration of footwear and related industries. There are more than 3,000 firms of all types of footwear, good communication systems, and numerous accommodation facilities. The area has a wide range of possibilities for tourism and those who accompany delegates will be able to enjoy a full programme.

Henceforth, the UITIC Executive Committee will meet periodically in order to prepare for this Congress

The winners were given a medal and certificate during the official Congress dinner in Oporto. It should be noted that this activity was made possible thanks to the collaboration of the following sponsors:

- **Technorg Technology** (Hungary)
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UITIC News

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