



PREPARATIONS WELL UNDER WAY FOR THE XIII CONGRESS FERMO - OCTOBER 1999



The XIII International Technical Footwear Congress will be held from the 14th to 16th October 1999. It is being organised by ANCI Servizi S.r.l., the service company of the National Association of Footwear Industrialists in Italy, on behalf of UITIC.

The setting for this Congress, the last one of the millennium, is the beautiful location of FERMO, an industrial centre and tourist destination located on the coast of the Adriatic Sea in the Marche region of Italy, renowned for its large concentration of footwear producing factories.

The overall structure will be the same as at the last Congress which was held in Portugal in 1996: the three mornings (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) will be devoted to technical sessions and the two afternoons (Thursday and Friday) to factory visits. The last Congress in Portugal proved that this is the ideal formula since the conference sessions

are lighter, the factory visits more comfortable and local businessmen are able to participate without completely abandoning their companies.

The lectures will be grouped according to the logical order of footwear manufacture: design, supply, materials, upper preparation, assembly and distribution. For each session, the responsibility for co-ordination of the presentations and speakers has been delegated to individuals. These people are as follows:

■ Design
Mr. Orgilés (E)

■ Supply
Mr. Vulliermet (F)

■ Materials
Mr. Perkins (UK)

■ Upper preparation
Mr. Thorenz (D)

■ Assembly
Mr. Melo (P)

■ Distribution
Mr. Schmel (H)
Mr. Papakonstantinou (GR)

As on previous occasions, the intention is that the speakers will be businessmen and company technicians from the footwear sector who will share their practical experience on the different

subjects chosen. At this Congress, there will be something new in the first two sessions, those of design and supply. Instead of featuring a particular system as has been done up until now, there will be a presentation on the results of work carried out previously on a theme with different people from the industry, press and suppliers etc. The results of a questionnaire referring to a specific technological advance will also be presented.

The official languages for the Congress have been chosen as Italian, English, Spanish, Portuguese, French and German and there will be simultaneous translation into these during conference sessions and debates.

This will be the second UITIC Congress to be held in Italy, the first having taken place in Milan in 1983. It is hoped that over 400 delegates will attend who are interested in the latest technological innovations and who wish to see the Italian footwear industry close up. This is an industry which currently produces almost 500 million pairs of footwear, is the world leader in manufacturing of machinery for footwear and related industries and which sets the standard in development of new materials.

People

This section is dedicated to getting to know better the people who form part of the group of technicians who make up our profession. UITIC members are usually associations, but can also be companies and individual members. This is often true in countries where there is not an Association of Footwear Technicians or Technological Institute as is the case with Belgium.

It is particularly for Roger Maes, our Vice-president, who was born in Antwerp on the 9th October 1942. After finishing secondary school, he attended a 2-year Footwear Technology course in Waalwijk (Netherlands). With the intention of heading the technical department of footwear and new collection styling within the family business which was set up in 1924, he enrolled in the famous design course at Ars Sutoria in Milan (Italy) where he had the

ROGER MAES

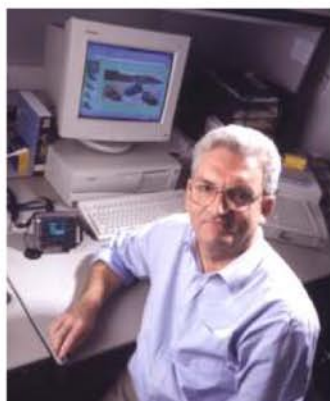


Photo SCHOENVISIE

opportunity to learn Italian.

He was one of the first Apple II users in Belgium at the end of the seventies which was his first step towards other technologies like: on-line time control; CAD/CAM; automatic stitching; and computer-assisted cutting. But even with this new technology, it was difficult to compete with the low labour cost countries in southern Europe. This is why his business entered into collaboration with a Portuguese

manufacturer in 1980, years before Spain and Portugal entered in the EC. Currently, the largest part of its production is now based in Spain, Italy and Portugal.

As the Belgian delegate in CEC (European Footwear Confederation) meetings, he started up the ShoeInfoNet web site in 1995 with the intention of creating a meeting place for the European Associations of Footwear Manufacturers. The repercussions were enormous on a world wide scale and one by one, more and more firms were introduced. There was also spontaneous collaboration of Associations, trade fair organisers, journals and schools all dedicated to the footwear and leathersgoods industries

Shortly, ShoeInfoNet will have received 300,000 visitors with a daily average of more than 750 visitors and so is a fantastic tool for establishing contacts all over the world.

OUR MEMBERS

Our individual member in Australia, Mr Geoffrey Jones, would like to establish an agreement with a footwear company based in Europe which requires representation in Asia. He has previously worked for AIRWALK and ECCO. His background is very much on production and quality control and he is a graduate of Ars Sutoria. For more information please contact the UITIC Secretariat.

UITIC News

EDITING

For further details on information published in this newsletter or when sending articles to be published here, address correspondence to:

INESCOP
(Rosa Navarro) P.O. Box 253
03600 ELDA (Alicante) ESPAÑA