

THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL FOOTWEAR CONGRESS WILL BE HELD IN BUDAPEST, IN OCTOBER 2002



The more time you take, the better things go. The UITIC (International Union of Footwear Technicians) Executive Committee has met in Budapest in order to decide the exact location of the next UITIC Congress. After visiting various places in Hungary to examine the possibilities and facilities of the various proposed locations, the capital, Budapest was chosen.

The UITIC Congress, with 25 years of experience, is the most important technical meeting for the footwear profession and its auxiliary industries. Following the success of last year's gathering, which was attended by

more than 500 participants in Fermo, Italy, preparations are well under way for the next Congress, which is held every three years.

Although it was decided that the Congress would be held in October 2002, the exact date will be confirmed closer to the

time, according to the fairs planned in this sector during that month. The structure of the Congress has also been decided, it will cover a full day on Friday and a morning session the following Saturday. It is therefore possible to take advantage of the lowest weekend rates offered by airlines.

Optional visits to footwear and auxiliary companies will be organised for the day before the conferences (Thursday). Tourist activities in the area, in addition to those included in the programme for accompanying persons, will be offered for Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

This will be the second time that the UITIC Congress has been held in Budapest, since in 1985 the VII Congress, which was organised by this Technicians' Union, took place there. The changes in this country and its businesses since then are of special significance and interest to this meeting.

On behalf of the UITIC, the Testing and Research Centre in Leather and Leather Processing Industries (BIMEO) in Hungary will be in charge of the actual organisation of the Congress. In order to co-ordinate the sessions those appointed to be responsible for each session have been chosen from the Executive Committee of the UITIC. As a common factor for the conferences there will be an analysis of different aspects of transnational production of footwear and its components as a result of the growing globalisation of the economy.

If you are interested in receiving information about advances in the organisation of this Congress, in contributing anything or sponsoring Congress actions, you can contact the UITIC Secretariat.

NEW MEMBER

Since September the UITIC has had a new member, BIMEO Ltd, which will be the centre responsible for organising the next Congress in Budapest in 2002 on behalf of the UITIC.

The Leather Quality Department (BIMEO) of the former Research and Development Company for the Leather and Shoe Industry (BCK or BCI) has recently been reorganised and since 1st February 1992 it has been acting as: BIMEO Testing and Research Co. Ltd in Leather and Leather Processing Industries, or shortly BIMEO Ltd.

BIMEO was founded by BCK together with 9 different leather and footwear manufacturing companies. Its founders hoped that the company would take on the role of a testing, servicing, consulting and development institution for the sectors that tan or use skin as a raw material. At present BIMEO works for 22 companies in the leather and footwear sector as well as for private individuals.

BIMEO's main areas of activity are: research and development (technology, quality, environment), quality testing as an accredited organisation, advisor on the implementation of ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 systems, consultancy, organisation and information services, centre for standardising activity for the corresponding branches of the industry, training, etc.

By combining the technical facilities and experience of the former BCK's Quality Control, Chemical Development and Information departments, the company also deals with environmental problems, develops testing methodology and co-ordinates and carries out R+D projects for leather related industries.

CTCA PORTUGAL

CTCA - Centro Tecnológico do Calçado (Footwear Technology Centre) is a non-profit private organisation, founded in 1986 with the incorporation of a footwear quality control laboratory created in 1981, by a common agreement between the Portuguese Footwear, Component and Leather Goods Manufacturers Association (APICCAPS) and two Governmental Institutes of the Portuguese Ministry of Industry, (IAPMEI and INETI).

Today more than 350 private companies are members of Centro.

The Centro has its head office, with 3000m², in S. João da Madeira, 30 Km south of Porto, and a delegation with 1000m², located in Felgueiras, 50 Km north of Porto. Centro currently employs 39 persons including 30 engineers and senior specialists developing its activities on both sites.

CTCA is a member of national and international associations, among which outstands ours, the UITIC. CTCA's director, Mr Leandro Melo,

is the Portuguese representative in the UITIC's Executive Committee.

With its team of experts and infrastructure capabilities CTCA, is active in all key areas affecting the competitiveness of footwear and allied companies, such as:

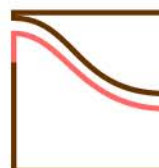
- Technical assistance and industrial consulting,
- Plant design and investment studies,
- Pre-competitive research,
- Raw material, component and product testing,
- Enterprise certification and quality management support,
- Environment,
- Hygiene and safety at work,
- Training,
- Information and documentation.

CTCA carries research & development projects in cooperation with many other Industrial Companies and RTO- Research and Technology Organizations. CTCA coordinates the FATEC Cluster Footwear Advanced Technologies, a network of machinery makers, RTO and footwear and allied



companies. The FATEC cluster produced some of the most technological advanced solutions for the footwear and allied industries, such as computerised systems for designing, stitching, assembling, lasting, waterjet and inkjet cutting, external multimedia communication systems, monitoring system for manufacturing operations, robotised machine for adhesive application, etc.

Centro
Tecnológico
do Calçado



UITIC News

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