

The next Uitic congress 2005 will be held in Tunis

After unsuccessfully putting themselves forward as candidates to organise the UITIC Congress for several years, eventually Tunisia, and particularly the National Centre for Leather and Footwear (CNCC) was unanimously elected by UITIC members to host the XV UITIC Congress that will be held on 23-26 November this year. Their proposal was put to the vote during the General Assembly that took place on 11 October 2002 on the occasion of the last UITIC Congress held in Budapest.

Tunisia's leather and footwear industry, counting more than 400 companies, is progressing and benefiting from a highly developed artisan sector that employs 36,000 people. Virtually half of these companies are devoted to footwear exports, footwear being the fifth product exported by Tunisia. The rate of footwear exports tripled over the last ten years, and footwear production doubled.

The main buyers of Tunisia's processed products are Italy (44%), followed by France (32%) and Germany (13%). Some foreign companies outsource their production to Tunisia, such as Adidas, Palladium, Eurovaira, etc.

The Tunisian footwear industry has several advantages, such as: skilled labour force, several vocational centres for the leather industry, free access of industrial products into the EU market, and support



infrastructures such as the National Centre for Leather and Footwear, which is equipped with testing and analysis laboratories.

This is the framework chosen for our next Congress, which differing from the structure followed in previous editions, will adopt the following conference scheme:

0. Opening session:

Welcome speeches by local authorities and introductory speech on the global situation of the footwear industry.

1. Response to consumer expectations:

Adaptation of products to consumer requirements, user perceptions of product innovation, etc.

2. Product development:

New rapid prototyping and simulation

technologies, introduction of sensors in the product and inclusion of ecological criteria in the design and production of footwear.

3. Production management:

Globalisation of footwear production, including competitiveness assessment aspects, quality assurance and the use of IT and Telecommunications in the exchange of information among the footwear value chain components.

4. Innovation:

Innovations with regards to product traceability, raw material control and the inclusion of new materials in footwear manufacture, such as intelligent fabrics.

5. Closing session.

The definitive conference programme will be available very soon, as well as registration forms and detailed information about hotels and participation fees.

NEW MEMBERS

No doubt, UITIC activities keep attracting footwear industry technicians from all over the world and our member list keeps growing more and more. The International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians has broadened its frontiers and the last members to join were ASSOMAC, the Italian Association of Footwear Machinery Manufacturers; Mr Andreas Tepest, from Germany; Mr Struta Felician Erno, from Romania; and the company Cobbler (HK) Ltd., from Hong Kong.

LE CUIR À PARIS A PROMISING EVENT

From 20 to 23 September 2005, LE CUIR À PARIS exhibition will be held at Paris Nord Villepinte as a part of PREMIÈRE VISION PLURIEL, a new label launched on the 18 May combining the following exhibitions: PREMIÈRE VISION, EXPOFIL, INDIGO, MOD'AMONT and LE CUIR À PARIS (www.premierevision-pluriel.com)

So, to date, almost 250 exhibitors from 20 countries will be presenting their best products and innovations in finished and semi-finished leathers, skins, furs, textiles and components. 43 new companies have already registered, mainly from Italy, Spain, France, Germany, England, the United States and Finland.

Each PREMIÈRE VISION PLURIEL event receives over 50,000 visitors. To make it easier for buyers and designers to visit the exhibition, LE CUIR À PARIS, which will be held in the north wing of Hall 5, will allow all holders of PREMIÈRE VISION PLURIEL passes free access to the exhibition form inside Hall 5. As for those wishing to visit LE CUIR À PARIS exhibition only, they will be allowed free access through the north entrance to Hall 5.

During the next edition of LE CUIR À PARIS, the Winter 2006-2007 trends will be presented exclusively and in preview. The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and the Middle Ages will be a rich source of inspiration. To illustrate these trends, the Trends Gallery will propose 4 fashion themes:

- Great Expectations (Charles Dickens)
- Crazy Dolls
- Celtic Attraction
- Splendeur Baroque

On Thursday 22 September at 11.00 in the VIP room, there will be a press conference that will include a presentation of the trends and fabrics for the season by the Bureau de Style Maroquinerie Chaussure.

Uitic Awards

At the last UITIC Congress, held in Budapest, during the official dinner the UITIC Awards were presented in their three categories: technical, scientific and managerial. On that occasion, the award winners were Mr Pietro Torielli (Italy) Wilfried Schreier (Germany) and Pierre Bonnet (France) respectively.

Mr Torielli joined the Torielli company in 1957, and became its president in 1966. The company was founded in 1933 with the aim of producing and distributing machinery for shoe production. Pietro played an important role in the expansion abroad of the so-called "made in Italy" slogan. Among the posts he held, the following could be highlighted: President of ASSOMAC (1995-1999); President of SIMAC and Tanning Tech fairs President of the Technical Committee, created by EEC, for the safety standards of footwear machinery; Member of UNIDO Leather Panel; Member of NLDP (National Leather Development Programme) named by the Indian government as a foreign expert in footwear.

Mr Schreier was a leading researcher at the former Weissenfels Research Centre (previously in East Germany), currently an associated member of the Pirnasens institute (PFI). Mr Schreier has spent decades as one of the most important researchers in Eastern Europe, dealing with different subjects in the technology field and the testing of shoe quality

Mr Bonnet was the director of ISIN Plc (1993-1995) and president and managing director of ISIN Plc (1988-1993). ISIN is a high technology business which designs and produces water cutting machinery created by **Mr Bonnet** in 1987 in order to satisfy the need for modernisation in the cutting workshops in the footwear industry. He was also Foreign trade adviser for France (1985-1992, Bordeaux); Administrator of CFCE, the French Foreign Trade Centre (1985-1991); Representative of the Consulat, associated member of Lot et Garonne CCI, since 1982; President of AFTIC, the French Association for Footwear Technicians (1978-1985); and he is currently responsible for the footwear, leather and bags department of the company Lectra Systèmes.

With a view to vote the next UITIC awards that will be presented during the XV Congress in Tunis, the period nominations is already open to all members of the Association. We kindly ask those interested in submitting a proposal to send the Secretariat a one-page resume of the candidate.

As it is well known, UITIC awards are presented in three different categories to recognise the merits of those people that stand out in the following domains:

- Technical: Experts in the footwear industry, employed workers.
- Scientific: Technologists or scientists, self-

employed or belonging to technical organisations in the sector.

■ Managerial: Managers, associates or high level executives in the Sector industries.

We hope this initiative will contribute to acknowledge the importance of our sectors and the professionals working in it.



Wilfried Schreier

UITIC News

EDITING

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