

Brussels, 18/09/2008,

PRESS RELEASE

concerning the expiry review investigation of the anti-dumping measures on imports of leather footwear originating in China and Vietnam

CEC strongly urges for the prolongation of the anti-dumping measures against imports of leather footwear from China and Vietnam and is determined to pursue with legal actions if the Commission rejects its request for review of the expiry of the existing anti-dumping measures on October 6

"The opinion given by the Anti-dumping Committee on September 17 concerning the Commission's proposal to initiate an expiry review with regard to anti-dumping measures against footwear with uppers of leather from China and Vietnam is not only completely unfounded but also legally and economically flawed", says Roeland Smets, Managing Director of CEC.

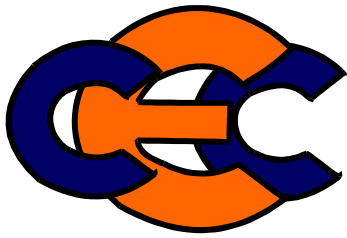
The European industry today still suffers heavily from the continued dumped imports from China and Vietnam on the European market, and has never fully recovered from the prejudice caused by these dumped imports. Indeed, merely two years of anti-dumping duties did not suffice for the European footwear industry to recover from the prejudice caused on the European market, despite the efforts made by the industry itself. In fact, the dumping of leather footwear on the European market has never stopped, as was proven by CEC in its request filed to the Commission. Even worse, the existing anti-dumping measures were circumvented by imports from Macau, which obliged the Commission to step up.

Where in the case of leather footwear it was the first time anti-dumping measures were only imposed for two years, it has been proven that this has clearly not been enough for the European industry to recover from the substantial prejudice it suffered and still suffers.

CEC is deeply shocked by the fact that the Anti-Dumping Committee only seemed to have taken into account the private interest of a few companies with big lobby campaigns, while bluntly putting aside the detrimental impact which a negative decision would have for the whole of the European footwear industry. According to CEC it can by no means be justified that the future of a whole industry is ignored and denied, especially not at a moment in time when society is faced with economic problems on world scale.

CEC confirms that the current anti-dumping measures did not have any affect on the European consumers, and will never have. From the statements from BEUC it seems they were wrongly informed by the retailers, obviously working together with the Chinese and Vietnamese importers.

Given the high interests at stake for the European footwear industry, CEC has already instructed its legal advisors to explore all legal actions that can be introduced to suspend or annul a decision not to open an investigation on this issue on the part of the Commission, and



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will certainly not refrain from taking such action. CEC will put everything into place to limit the drastic economic impact for the European footwear industry, including a demand for damages.

However, CEC still remains confident that the Commission will take up its responsibilities and open the expiry review, notwithstanding the enormous pressure some known companies have put on the delegates of the Member States in the Anti-Dumping Committee. To this respect, the content of the present press release was also transmitted to each Commissioner of the European Commission.

For further information:

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What is CEC?

CEC is the European Confederation of the Footwear Industry and is the official representative body of the European Manufacturers Footwear Industry. CEC represents all major national footwear federations of the European Union and also observing countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The footwear associations from Italy, Spain, Portugal, Poland, France, United Kingdom, Greece, Belgium, the Netherlands, Finland, Hungary, Slovenia, Sweden and Turkey are full members. Russia, Tunisia and Ukraine are observer members.

The European Footwear industry is changing a lot each day due to the movement towards a further globalization of world's economy, the future enlargement/adhesion of the European Union, the several bilateral contacts between the EU and the Mediterranean zone, the increased competition world-wide ...

As the only leading European Confederation for the sector, CEC is defending the interests of the European Footwear Industry in order to maintain and to keep the industry in business and to defend the competitiveness of the sector in Europe and worldwide

CEC is also the officially recognized speaking partner of the European Commission and we are consulted in all matters that concern footwear. We work almost daily with the European Commission to solve different problems or to give our advice. We work on market access, quotas, antidumping, export or import problems, environment, labeling, e-commerce, standards, projects, training, etc...

CEC is definitely playing for its member the role as mediator, consultant, bringing footwear producers together.

CEC has always been in favor of a free and fair market with equal chances for all on a reciprocal basis. We are convinced that cooperation must increase and develop the global footwear market in a globalized market.