

Brussels, October 3, 2008

PRESS RELEASE

From the European Confederation of the Footwear Industry (CEC)

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

CEC welcomes the decision of the Commission to initiate the expiry review of the existing anti-dumping measures against imports of leather footwear from China and Vietnam and is confident that the review will confirm the need for continuation of the anti dumping duties.

CEC welcomes the decision taken by the Commission on Friday the 3rd of October 2008 very much and commits itself to provide full cooperation to the Commission during the review process. Besides the continuation of dumping and the injury that currently still remains on the European footwear market, as demonstrated in its request for expiry review, CEC believes the further existence of unfair trading practises in China and Vietnam will necessarily lead to a prolongation of the existing anti-dumping measures.

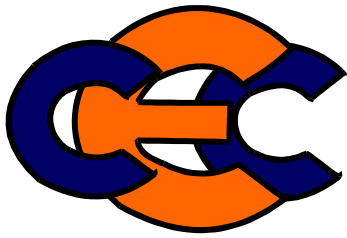
Mr. Roeland Smets, Managing Director of CEC, confirmed that CEC already tried several times in the past to set up a dialogue with the Chinese authorities in order to find a proper and balanced solution, but never received any constructive answer. As a result CEC had no other alternative than to use the trade defence instruments available under European law.

Philippe Vlaemminck, a Brussels based EU trade lawyer within Vlaemminck & Partners, the law firm advising CEC, declared that the demand of CEC contains strong evidence of the ongoing injurious dumping practises. He therefore remains confident that the Commission's investigation will prove that there is a need for the continuation of the existing anti dumping duties.

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, labelling, 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 favour 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.

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