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PRESS RELEASE
06/04/2006

Commission regulation imposing a provisional antidumping duty on imports of certain footwear with uppers of leather originating in China and Vietnam ((EC) No 553/2006 – OJ L98, 6.4.2006)

One year ago the European Confederation of Footwear Industry (CEC) received the first statistics information regarding the evolution of Chinese imports for the beginning of 2005.

These statistics pointed out a strong growth in volume (+200 %) and a reduction of the average value of the average price of imported shoes in EU (-25 %).

Since, the tendency was accentuated and the situation of our industry still worsened. So CEC introduced an antidumping complaint (30 may 2005).

Therefore, we are satisfied that the Commission finally published its regulation on the results of the investigation.

After its investigations, the Commission found that all the concerned shoes were imported at dumping price for the period of investigation, also well from China as from Vietnam. But, the complaint of CEC was reduced in content by EU Commission to 70%.

The dumping is an unfair practice, prohibited by WTO, aiming to take market shares by killing the competition.

Nevertheless, we are not satisfied by the measures suggested.

- because the recommended rights are not sufficiently high to restore a fair trade. Moreover, since the end of the period of investigation (31/03/05), the dumping prices have still decreased by 25%
- because these rights of 19,4% for China and 16,8% for Vietnam will be in application only from the 15/09/06, which lets a lot of time to the importers to organize themselves in order to avoid measurements. Already 4 possible escape routes have been announced.
- because "STAF" sport shoes and the shoes of less than 24cm (heel of less than 3cm) are imported at dumping price and are not included in the measurements.

As the regulation shows very clearly, the dumping prices influence the purchases of the importers and the wholesalers. The importers and the wholesalers do not reflect these dumping prices at the level of the consumer and in consequence benefit from a profit margin much larger than by distributing shoes produced in the EU.

Therefore it is interesting to note that the fall of the prices of 25% noted for one year has not been reflected at the level of the consumer. It is more than probable that the antidumping duties will not lead to a significant rise of the prices for the consumer.

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For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us :

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