



XIII INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL FOOTWEAR CONGRESS HELD IN FERMO (ITALY) OCTOBER 1999



The Italian footwear employers' organisation ANCI organised on behalf of UITIC the XIII International Technical Footwear Congress in Fermo, on the 14th, 15th and 16th October 1999.

The last UITIC congress of the millennium was held in an incomparable setting: Fermo, in the Italian region of Marche. This is one of the main focus points of the country's industry in which manufacturers of footwear, soles etc. are situated.

Over 500 delegates from 20 countries attended the event. They were mainly from Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal and France but there were delegates from all over the world, attracted by the different sessions into which the Congress was divided.

In the design session, the main technological advances were exhibited

which, together with new digital technologies, contribute to the innovation of design. In the supply session the possible ways of obtaining optimisation of costs by means of implementing logistic platforms and close supply sources were discussed. The materials session lecturers showed their interest in the applications of thermoplastic polyurethane and membranes in order to obtain greater comfort for the foot. In reference to the upper preparation, emphasis was put on using new technologies in the areas of cutting, marking and stitching with the aim of reducing costs and maintaining flexibility. The presentations of the assembly session

focused on reducing the time for the last stages of manufacture. Finally, in the distribution session the revolution in distribution circuits thanks to the Internet and electronic commerce was discussed. In addition the concept of ecological labelling was covered. These sessions were complemented by visits to various factories and pilot schools where theories exposed in the Congress room were demonstrated in situ.

The programme of social events provided the entertainment for the Congress, as much for accompanying people as for the Congress participants. It included the presentation of the

UITIC awards to those people who have demonstrated achievements in the world of footwear in three different categories.

These awards were won by:

Jan Pivecka (Technical),

Giancarlo Albanesi (Scientific)

Antonio Vicente (Managerial).

XXV ANNIVERSARY

Coinciding with the celebration of the last Congress of this century, the International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians (UITIC) commemorated its 25th anniversary. It was after the Congress organised by the CTC in Lyon, when it was decided to create this institution with the aim of combining together all the people associated with the world of footwear on an international level, not just European. In January 1974, UITIC began its life and it has already held 13 congresses (Evian, Alicante, Mayence, Bristol, Belgrade, Milan, Budapest, Alicante, Nantes, Munich, Athens, Porto and the most recent congress in Fermo).

During these 25 years, the shared aim of all members of UITIC has been the development of technological knowledge in the shoe industry and the exchange of such information between members. The success of these aims is demonstrated by the growth of membership from all over the world. Currently UITIC has members in Australia, Austria, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

We hope that UITIC will continue to be successful during the next 25 years and that it will be capable of maintaining its world recognition as the most prestigious group of footwear technicians.

People

FERENC SCHMEL



Dr. Ferenc Schmel was born in Budapest, Hungary, on the 22nd February 1945. He is an important figure in the manufacture of leather goods, totalling 31 years experience at an international level in this field. His studies began in 1959 when he attended a secondary school specialising in garment and footwear technologies. He went on to gain a MSc in leather products technology at the Light Industry Technical Institute in Ukraine. In 1974, he obtained a degree in Systems Analysis from the Postgraduate Computer Education Centre of Budapest and in 1977 he obtained a further degree in philosophy from Budapest's Postgraduate University of Political Sciences.

His professional experience is impressively varied. He currently holds the position of Industrial Development Officer at UNIDO,

Vienna, where his role includes the identification, formulation, management and evaluation of technical assistance for leather-processing related projects in developing countries. Previously he was branch head at the Research Institute for Leather and Footwear Industries in Budapest where he

helped to develop training programs and methods. Here he was also involved in production control, computer applications and the introduction of CAD/CAM. He also worked with local leather-goods and footwear manufacturing companies helping to improve production efficiency levels and to introduce new manufacturing units to the sector.

He is also recognised for his participation in the organisation of global forums such as the UNIDO leather panel meeting and the UITIC Congresses, as well as for his research into various aspects of leather products manufacture and the implementation of computer technology in the footwear industry.

All these experiences and professional commitment make Dr. Schmel a highly suitable person to be both member (since 1984) and treasurer (since 1997) of UITIC.

UITIC News

EDITING

For further details on information published in this newsletter or when sending articles to be published here, address correspondence to:

INESCOP

(Esperanza Almodóvar) P.O. Box 253
03600 ELDA (Alicante) ESPAÑA