THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL FOOTWEAR CONGRESS WILL BE HELD IN BUDAPEST, IN OCTOBER 2002

The more time you take, the better things go. The UITIC (International Union of Footwear Technicians) Executive Committee has met in Budapest in order to decide the exact location of the next UITIC Congress. After visiting various places in Hungary to examine the possibilities and facilities of the various proposed locations, the capital, Budapest was chosen.

The UITIC Congress, with 25 years of experience, is the most important technical meeting for the footwear profession and its auxiliary industries. Following the success of last year’s gathering, which was attended by more than 500 participants in Fermo, Italy, preparations are well under way for the next Congress, which is held every three years.

Although it was decided that the Congress would be held in October 2002, the exact date will be confirmed closer to the time, according to the fairs planned in this sector during that month. The structure of the Congress has also been decided, it will cover a full day on Friday and a morning session the following Saturday. It is therefore possible to take advantage of the lowest weekend rates offered by airlines.

Optional visits to footwear and auxiliary companies will be organised for the day before the conferences (Thursday). Tourist activities in the area, in addition to those included in the programme for accompanying persons, will be offered for Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

This will be the second time that the UITIC Congress has been held in Budapest, since in 1985 the VII Congress, which was organised by this Technicians’ Union, took place there. The changes in this country and its businesses since then are of special significance and interest to this meeting.

On behalf of the UITIC, the Testing and Research Centre in Leather and Leather Processing Industries (BIMEO) in Hungary will be in charge of the actual organisation of the Congress. In order to co-ordinate the sessions appointed to be responsible for each session have been chosen from the Executive Committee of the UITIC. As a common factor for the conferences there will be an analysis of different aspects of the transnational production of footwear and its components as a result of the growing globalisation of the economy.

If you are interested in receiving information about advances in the organisation of this Congress, in contributing anything or sponsoring Congress actions, you can contact the UITIC Secretariat.

NEW MEMBER

Since September the UITIC has had a new member, BIMEO Ltd, which will be the central responsible for organising the next Congress in Budapest in 2002 on behalf of the UITIC.

The Leather Quality Department (BIMEO) of the former Research and Development Company for the Leather and Shoe Industry (BCK or BCD) has recently been reorganised and since 1st February 1992 it has been acting as: BIMEO Testing and Research Co. Ltd in Leather and Leather Processing Industries, or shortly BIMEO Ltd.

BIMEO was founded by BCK together with 9 different leather and footwear manufacturing companies. Its founders hoped that the company would take on the role of a testing, servicing, consulting and development institution for the sectors that tan or use skin as a raw material. At present BIMEO works for 22 companies in the leather and footwear sector as well as for private individuals.

BIMEO’s main areas of activity are: research and development (technology, quality, environment), quality testing as an accredited organisation, advisor on the implementation of ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 systems, consultancy, organisation and information services, centre for standardising activity for the corresponding branches of the industry, training, etc.

By combining the technical facilities and experience of the former BCK’s Quality Control, Chemical Development and Information departments, the company also deals with environmental problems, developing testing methodology and co-ordinates and carries out R+D projects for leather related industries.

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