

Annual Report

Review of the Year

2003



The European
Apparel and Textile
Organisation

Annual Report

Review of the Year

2003

PREPARED FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF JUNE 25th, 2004 IN BRUSSELS



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GENERAL

The Board of Directors



President
Filiep LIBEERT



Director General
William LAKIN



The term of office of the current Board of Directors, elected on December 5th 2001, will come to an end on June 30th 2004 when it will be replaced by a new Board, the members of which will be elected or re-elected by the General Assembly of June 25th. It will serve for the two-year period until June 30th 2006.

The present Board of Directors is listed below and pictured above at its meeting in Paris on September 19th 2003:

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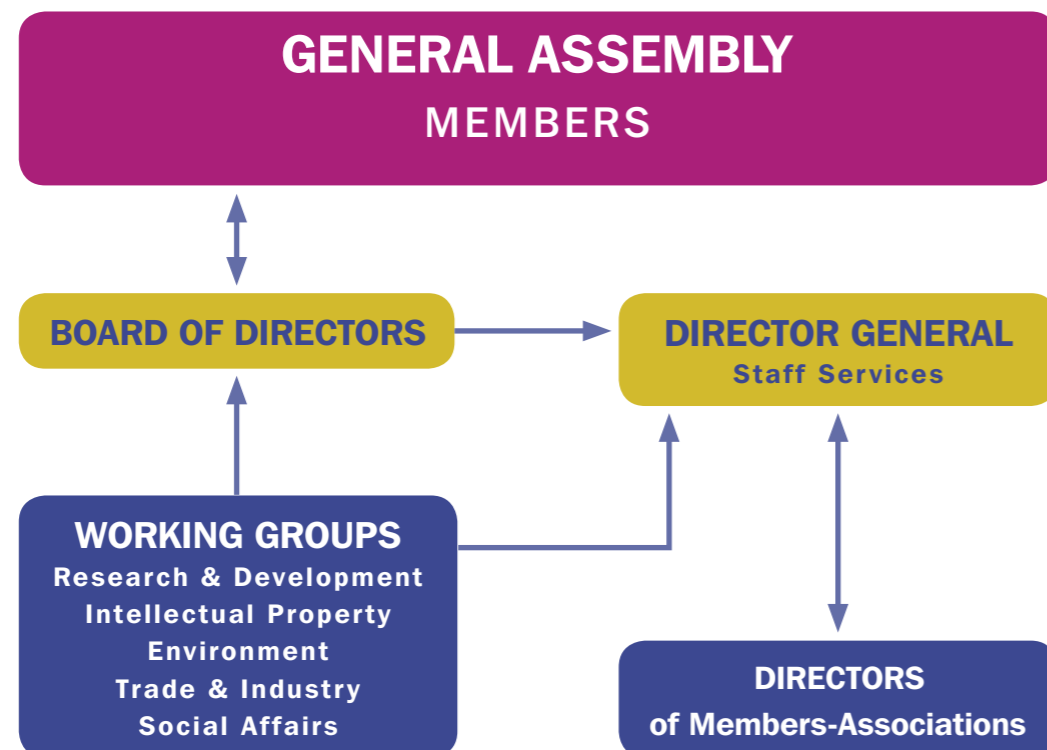
Membership

The enlargement of the European Union to 25 as of May 1st 2004 has implied that member-associations in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia now become plenary members of EURATEX. Only Hungary of the former Central and Eastern European states has still to join. In the meantime, contacts are ongoing with Bulgaria and Romania, and an application for membership has also been received from a Russian association. The June 2004 Assembly will discuss this latter application if adequate information as to its representativity is forthcoming.

The Working Structure

Since the review of activity in the report covering 2002 a significant change has occurred in the working structure of EURATEX. The Mandate and Review Body has now been abolished and replaced by specific Committees dedicated to Trade and Industry and Environment, Research and Development, Intellectual Property and Social Affairs.

The new organigramme now appears in the form set out below:



Administration

ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET FOR 2003

The accounts and Balance sheet for the calendar year 2003 also form part of the documentation for the General Assembly. They have been sent to members under separate cover and will be reported upon in greater detail by the Vice-President Treasurer.

THE INSTITUTIONAL DIMENSION OF EURATEX

Throughout the year, Euratex was invited to take part in several events of international dimension, in direct connection with the launching of multilateral negotiations (OECD, WTO, WCO); with its activities as institutional lobby at European level (European Parliament, Economic and Social Committee, Committee 133/Textiles, Unice); and with the internal relations of the chain at regional or international level (ACTE, IAF). On the occasion of these events, Euratex was able to clarify the positions of our industry with regard to all files pertaining to both commercial policy and industrial policy in the general sense of the word, as a complement to the activities pursued by the other departments of Euratex.



Filiep LIBEERT & Friedhelm SARTORIS



Robert MADELIN & Filiep LIBEERT
with Eva CASALPRIM (EP) and Stéphanie LE BERRE

General Assembly 2003

INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

Communication on Textiles and Clothing

All of Euratex's activities were more or less influenced by the drafting of the communication which derived from the conclusions of several official events that took place between the end of 2002 and mid 2003, the grand finale being the conference organized in May 2003 by Commissioner Lamy.

This communication, published in October 2003 by Commissioners Lamy and Liikanen, underlines the need for the sector to adopt a consistent and co-ordinated approach aimed at [a] strengthening research and development, as well as innovation within the industrial pipeline; [b] ensuring adequate protection of intellectual property rights (more widespread use of available instruments by companies) and more effective fight against counterfeiting both at Community and at world level; [c] promoting continuing training of labour and a focused and concerted approach at the level of the regions particularly dependent on textiles and clothing; [d] taking into account the characteristics of the sector both in the new chemicals policy and within the framework of environment policy in general; [e] making commercial policy the spearhead of the improvement of our industry's competitiveness.

The findings of this communication, published in October, were adopted without any changes by the Member States at the end of November 2003 and were the subject matter of several confrontations and resolutions in favour of our sector both at the European Parliament and at the Economic and Social Committee.

One of the most visible results was the setting up of a "High Level Group", bringing together four Commissioners, four Ministers (DE, FR, IT, PO), the industry, the unions, local and regional authorities, as well as distributors and retailers. By July 2004, this High Level Group will have to deliver recommendations for a consistent and proactive industrial and commercial policy in favour of the textiles and clothing sector of the EU-25.

The process launched by the "High Level Group" will also use the results of the study requested by DG Enterprise on *"the implications of the 2005 trade liberalisation in the textile and clothing sector"*. This very complete and complex study examines the current competitiveness of the European industry and its districts, analyses the developments observed among some world competitors and the retail sector.

On the other hand, projections over 15 years were carried out to assess the additional impact of liberalisation on the sector and suggested some avenues to reflect on the future. Euratex took part in the follow-up committee for this study by giving its advice and by opening up its data base to the consultants. It is in this same spirit that Euratex is participating in the steering committee for an additional study on the future of the 10 new Member States and of the three applicants (Bulgaria, Romania et Turkey). This study was launched at the end of 2003 by DG Enterprise and its results should be available towards the end of 2004.

Traceability and Origin Marking

The traceability of products and their marking has been one of the most controversial issues in 2003. The associations and, thus, Euratex have indeed



Francesco
MARCHI

devoted quite an amount of time and energy to examine the proposal of the Italian industry in favour of the development of a system for the traceability of products throughout the chain, for reasons both of sustainable development (in social and environmental terms) and of visibility/transparency for all products (whether imported or produced in the European Union) and intended for the final consumer. Several meetings of the Board of Directors and of specialised working groups permitted a clarification of the position of the industry on this delicate issue, despite the totally opposing views of some of the members. Further work focused on the possibility of imposing a labelling of the origin of products, « made in... ».

The issue then took on another dimension when the Commission launched an institutional debate on origin marking « made in the EU », whether these labels be voluntary or compulsory. The working document published by DG Enterprise on the issue not only concerns textile and clothing products but also a wide range of consumer goods. It was not surprising to note that the reactions of the representatives of various manufacturing sectors and Member States were widely different as to the advisability or not to impose compulsory origin marking on all products marketed on the territory of the European Union. After several attempts, Euratex succeeded in defining a position which is the result of major compromises on the part of many of its members; thus, this position does not fully satisfy anyone and it will only be possible to include it in a sectoral approach when the European Commission and the Member States are able to reach a decision on this dossier.

Within this framework, Euratex developed a database which synthesizes labelling obligations for textile and clothing products for 100 countries or territories throughout the world: label of origin, composition label, washing instructions, size, additional information required from importers and official language.

Regulatory Developments

Over the past twelve months and with a view to enlargement, Euratex made sure that the regulation on State aids would cover the sector better. This issue, which is a rather difficult one but one which plays a decisive role in maintaining sound competition, forced Euratex to propose the following [a] bring down the eligibility threshold so as to submit these aids to a certain discipline; [b] maintain a "sectoral" approach for our industrial chain in the new framework regulation on State aids. These issues are very sensitive and no decision has been reached yet, even though the Member States adopted during the first quarter of 2004 two regulations simplifying the management of aids intended for enterprises in difficulties or needing to restructure. On the whole, these regulations are rather well accepted by the industry as they bring some discipline into the practices of Member States.

On the other hand, Euratex welcomed the decision of Member States to increase transparency, efficiency and predictability in the use of *commercial defence instruments* (anti-dumping and anti-subsidies). According to these new rules, definitive measures to fight against dumping and subsidies shall be adopted if the simple majority of Member States is not opposed to them. The EU is also going to introduce compulsory time limits to complete reinvestigations so as to accelerate investigations and introduce clearer rules on the application of commercial defence measures. On the eve of the EU's enlargement, these changes will make the commercial defence instruments more effective, easier to implement and more transparent for European operators and for those from third countries involved in commercial defence cases in the EU.

In another context, as of 1st January 2005, a new definition of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) will be applied by the Commission and the

Member States for programmes of research and development, innovation, and vocational training promotion, for regional projects or for the obligation relating to the publication of the accounts of companies, etc. Euratex is extremely pleased with this updating.

This definition takes into account the growths in productivity observed since 1996 and will play a decisive role in access to programmes promoting the competitiveness of SMEs of the sector (following the work of the High Level Group; see above), even though some would have preferred to see the employee threshold brought up.

Enterprise category	Employees (Unchanged)	Turnover	or Overall Balance Sheet
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 million (in 1996: 40 million)	≤ € 43 million (in 1996: 27 million)
Small	< 50	≤ € 10 million (in 1996: 7 million)	≤ € 10 million (in 1996: 5 million)
Micro	< 10	≤ € 2 million (not defined previously)	≤ € 2 million (not defined previously)

EXTERNAL TRADE

(Francesco MARCHI)

World Conference on Textiles and Clothing

On 5th and 6th May 2003, a World Conference on Textiles and Clothing was organised in Brussels, under the auspices of Commissioner Lamy. This event brought together over 800 participants from 70 countries and showed, for the first time maybe at that level, the trade implications that will result from the implementation of past (ATC) and future WTO agreements that have a direct impact on our sector.

Numerous representatives from the highest level world and national institutions took turns to raise current issues. The industrialists and representatives of the European Union paid particular attention to the address of the Director General of DG Trade, Mr. Peter CARL, who somewhat clarified the position of the European Union on tariff and non-tariff barriers by repeatedly mentioning reciprocity and harmonisation, and also to the careful conclusions of Mr. Pascal Lamy who insisted on the necessary involvement of all countries in that process and on the need to develop "South-South" trade.

The position of Euratex, expressed by its President, was clear, polite and firm but clearly in favour of a reciprocal and symmetrical opening of markets. And so was the position of the representatives of the European industry who were invited to intervene officially by the Commission. The conference as such also enabled a number of least advanced countries and of small suppliers to convey their concern as to their future role in textile and clothing trade. It also highlighted the growing isolation of India as the only market that remains very much closed, as well as the increase in importance of China which worries many supplier countries.

This event gave the European, American, Japanese and Korean trade associations the opportunity to meet before the event to identify their common viewpoints on

the future of our industry. A joint press release was issued on the occasion of that meeting.

Cancun Ministerial Conference and Development

The beginning of the year had been marked by a lack of clarity as to the position the Commission and the Member States intended to adopt within the framework of the future negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda (DDA); this led to a few important clarifications between Euratex and the negotiators during the first half of 2003. So far as our industry is concerned, market access is to be viewed within a so-called "sectoral" approach of which both tariff and non-tariff aspects are an integral part.

It is on that basis that Euratex and the Japanese industry indicated their hopes as to the launching of the negotiation round which should lead to a real harmonisation of market access in the sector as well as to a decrease of tariff differences between all world players. Our industry confidently took part in the WTO Ministerial Conference organised in Cancun. Euratex was extremely active to support and defend the positions of our industry with the Commission, the Member States and Unice during those four days. Unfortunately, the Conference was a failure. So far as Euratex and its members present in Cancun were concerned, these results were a total surprise and no real negotiations took place...

This failure conditioned the rest of the year. The European Union entered a phase of reflection; thus, Euratex had to remain vigilant and to be very active with the Commission, the European Parliament and other European industrial sectors to make sure that the final choices would be in line with the hopes of our industry.

The DDA process was re-launched – although in minor mode – at the beginning of 2004, at the instigation of the EU, but also of the American letter – which attracted much media attention – in favour of an approach more focused on LDCs and the search for a "critical mass of countries in favour of a sectoral approach for our industry. For the time being, Euratex stands by its approach according to which all WTO members have to comply with the sectoral approach conditions so long as the negotiating modalities and the formula have not been decided in Geneva. No doubt, this file will remain at the core of our industry's concerns in the coming months.

However, it is encouraging to note that a number of the ideas defended by our industry regarding the link with development, the need to better differentiate between developing countries and the need for greater equity in efforts in favour of LDCs are slowly gaining ground thanks to the pressure exerted by our industrialists on our local and national elected representatives. Nonetheless, many major world exporters – for whom opening of markets and reciprocity and/or symmetry do not necessarily go hand in hand – have not rallied to these ideas yet.

Sustainable Development (SIA) and Its Unexpected Repercussions (STIC)

As was the case in 2002, sustainable development continued to generate important activity in our sector throughout the year.

Euratex completed its participation in the assessment of the sector undertaken on behalf of the Commission, the most significant results of which were presented to the June General Assembly by Mr Madelin, Director of DG Trade. This assessment confirmed a large number of the ideas that had been put forward by Euratex over the past three years which is – to a certain extent – reassuring. However, towards



the end of the year, Euratex had to make sure that the operational conclusions drawn by the Commission from this exercise – the famous support measures to be developed within the framework of the DDA in priority in favour of the most vulnerable countries – did remain in line with the Communication on the sector and did not include ideas that could prove counter productive. No doubt, the contribution of the sector was appreciated but it is quite likely that other sustainability impact assessments in other parts of the world (e.g. ACP countries) will force Euratex to react again in 2004 if the sector is chosen as an example for an alternative development policy for those countries.

Within this « pro development » framework, textiles, together with the agro-industry, are once again targeted, at the request of some developing countries, as a pilot project by the « Sustainable Trade and Innovation Centre » (STIC). This semi-public initiative, born from the Johannesburg Conference (2002), aims at developing initiatives promoting the exports of developing countries. This highly symbolic initiative, supported politically by Mr Lamy, is founded on a world network of continental coordination centres aiming to support exports of sustainable products (from a social and from an environmental point of view) to industrialised countries; this gave rise to quite a number of debates and concerns in the sector as to its participation or not in this initiative. For the time being, the members believe that we should accompany this move so as not to be placed before a “fait accompli”. A first practical issue is emerging: « the harmonisation of ethical and labour standards » included in several private codes and supported by the NGOs. A decision will have to be reached before the end of the first half of 2004; however, the project will go on even if the European industry opposes it.

Trade and Industrial Relations

For the past two or three years, the international dimension of Euratex has been increasingly asserting itself. Nevertheless, we shall still have to wait for some time before a concrete impact on the enterprises can be felt as these efforts are being conducted in parallel to the actions of the public authorities.

China, India, Russia, to name but a few, were the target markets in 2003 and Euratex has started discussions with the industrialists of these countries. The results achieved were unequal and depended on the will of the third party to really make some headway. All these countries have a single aim: to attract European investors who are deeply committed in the Paneuromed zone, whereas our objective remains the opening of markets and the facilitation of our exports...

China

The performances of Chinese textile and clothing exports to the United-States and to the European Union were our chief concern in 2003. The pressure on prices and on the exported volumes was such that the industry is expecting strong reactions on the part of the Commission and of the Member States, similar to the ones that took place in the United States. The decision of the American authorities to make use of the textile safeguard clause against Chinese exports of knitted fabrics, brassieres and dressing gowns induced Euratex to also express its support for such measures. Now it is up to the Commission to decide how to react



January 14th 2004: The China Press Conference, Brussels.

President Filiep LIBEERT addresses 40 journalists

if the European industry asks for the introduction of similar measures. This issue was the focus of the Press conference organised on 14 January in Brussels by Euratex, which attracted many journalists and coincided with a number of similar events at national level. The President of Euratex, Mr. Filiep Libeert, did his best to make the public aware of the opportunities and challenges raised by China and to make sure that that country will fully meet its commitments vis-à-vis WTO. The *circulation* of the message by the medias proved to be *extremely positive*, including by the *Financial Times* which devoted the front page headlines of its European edition to this issue.

On the other hand, Euratex placed at the disposal of its members an evolutionary data base with the latest information on the situation of the Chinese industry, the evolution of legislation, etc... This base is only open to contributors who have agreed to share their information. If the experience proves to be conclusive, Euratex might develop similar bases for other markets so that the greatest number of enterprises can share the available information and analyses.

Finally, the very quick development of China gave rise to diverse reactions: the Istanbul declaration and contacts with Chinese officials.

The Istanbul Declaration

Since March 2004, the Board and the members of Euratex have initiated an in-depth discussion of the text of the *Istanbul Declaration*, signed at the beginning of March 2004 by the Turkish textile and clothing industries and their American and Mexican counterparts. In the face of the threat which China represents, both for exporting countries and for the industries whose survival depends on the markets of industrialised countries, this declaration asks that the deadline for the system of quotas, due to end on 31 December 2004 be extended for three additional years so as to moderate the increase in power of that country. For the time being, the Board of Directors feels that Euratex should not sign this declaration so long as the work of the High Level Group has not been completed (see above). But Euratex does understand and share the concerns expressed in the declaration by its authors who, meanwhile, have been joined by other associations from Europe, Latin America and the South-East of Africa. This matter is far from being closed...

Political Contacts

In answer to the more or less veiled attacks against Chinese domination in the commercial field which has a heavy impact on world prices, Euratex had to the occasion to meet, on several occasions, either with the Chinese industry – as was the case during the conference organised in Beijing end of March 2004 – or with Chinese officials at the highest level, such as the Vice-Minister for trade in charge of textiles. Apparently, there is a lack of understanding as to the reasons of this worrying growth of Chinese exports. So far as Euratex is concerned, the opportunities offered by the Chinese market are completely overshadowed by the commercial methods which have jeopardised the existence of numerous European SMEs that can not longer compete with these products sold at prices that are totally irrational. The Chinese say it is simply the correction of the imbalances generated by the quota system during more than thirty years... The truth probably lies somewhere in between but time is against us and our industrialists must be able to count on the European and national public authorities willing to defend them without having any political considerations interfere in those files. It is likely that contacts will continue, certainly in a minor mode, but China, with its opportunities and challenges, will remain at the forefront for at least the next three to five years...

India, The First Signs of a Détente?

In 2002, Euratex was led into the , whose objective was to enable the industrial sectors to submit to the political authorities joint proposals for improvements in the legislation or in the functioning of markets so as to facilitate bilateral industrial and trade relations. Since the Copenhagen declaration in October 2002, no fundamental change took place due to the difficulties to communicate with the representatives of the Indian industrialists. After the conference organised by Commissioner Lamy (see above), a bilateral EU/India meeting led to agreement to exchange detailed information and legal texts concerning intellectual property, customs issues and other administrative elements. The deadline for the exchange was set at 30 June 2003 but one really had to insist to obtain most of the information by October.

This situation, which did not reveal real changes as to the positions defended by the Indian industry, forced Euratex to lodge a complaint with the Commission on the eve of the new summit organised in New Delhi at the end of November 2003.

As of that point in time, contacts at official level accelerated which led to the organisation of a first meeting of the joint industry/public authorities committee in India. During that flying mission, Euratex and the competent services of the Commission were able to obtain numerous clarifications regarding the trade barriers that had been listed and the methods for calculating customs duties. All this material is being examined by Europe with full cooperation of the Indian authorities. Obviously, the Indian authorities want to regain prestige and show that access to their market is not what has been described by our exporters these past few years. As for the industry, it is keeping a low profile, its prime objective still being to attract European investors...

Alongside this improvement in Indo-European relations, at the beginning of the year, there was some talk about the signing of a bilateral agreement with India on the model of those signed with Sri Lanka and Brazil: additional quotas for the last months of 2004 against permanent improvement in access to the Indian market. Euratex agreed in principle with the launching of such a process but only if the Indian concessions are real and measurable and if the commitments taken can be guaranteed with certainty and in advance. Since then, the project has not made any headway.

Russia: A Roadmap for a Better Future?

Within the framework of the industrial round table between the EU and Russia, similar to the one existing with India, Euratex met with the representatives of the Russian textile and clothing industry in October for an exchange of experience and to try and find common ground for future collaboration. This gave rise to a joint declaration which was issued at the beginning of December. This declaration identifies the points for which synergies are sought: intellectual property, non-tariff barriers, etc. A Euratex delegation went to Moscow at the end of March 2004 for talks with a group of Russian



October 2003 – Meeting with a Russian Delegation

industrialists. These talks focused on certification and other barriers to trade at entry into the Russian market, on the recruiting of local agents, on intellectual property rights in the EU and in Russia, and on the possible future accession of Russia to Euratex. Another meeting is planned in June in Brussels.

Still in the context of market access, Euratex was very active in the discussions with the Commission as the negotiations on the accession of Russia to WTO were being stepped up. The result is still uncertain but it is likely that a large number of the requests made by the textile and clothing industry in the tariff field will be met.

The United States and Trade Problems

The evolution of exchange rates did not promote trade with our major customer: the United States. The American market, which is inundated with Asian products, did not play its usual role as the driving force for our exports and, moreover, imports declined. In 2003, in addition to this uncertainty linked to the market there was an announcement from the Commission that it would implement trade retaliation against the United-States within the framework of the « Foreign Sales Corporation » (FSC) dossier. A large number of textile and clothing products are still on that list despite the efforts of Euratex, which were successful in part, to reduce the list as much as possible. The implementation as of 1st March 2004 will take place gradually, with the imposition of additional duties on imports into the European Union which will amount to 17% but be spread over time. One may hope that this gradual introduction of duties will force the members of the American Congress to bring the bill in line with WTO requirements so that this trade war can end.

Latin America: Relations With Ups and Downs

Little happened with *Mercosur*, in part because negotiations are not progressing at a sustained tempo for the time being. The determination to conclude the negotiations by October 2004 is a positive sign and, within this framework, Euratex once again indicated its position: an as short as possible phasing out period, the removal of all non-tariff barriers and maintaining the EU'S preferential rules of origin. Normally, the bilateral EU-Brazil agreement contains elements which should enable us to achieve the first two objectives, provided Argentina reduces the barriers that are internal to Mercosur. As for the rules of origin, the matter might be more delicate due to the "protectionist" inclination of Latin-American industrialists who are very much influenced by the current negotiations with the USA for the setting up of a Free-Trade Area of the Americas.

Since the launching of the free-trade area, the relations between Mexico and the EU have continuously been poisoned by all kinds of customs problems which impose a growing burden on European exporters who are attracted by the profits they could derive from that agreement. Euratex remains active with the Commission to make sure that solutions are found within reasonable time limits on the following issues: rules of origin for printing, new labelling rules, additional requests for information on the EUR 1 certificate of origin.

THE PAN-EURO MEDITERRANEAN ZONE

Enlargement: The Perfect Link Effect

As announced last year on the occasion of the completion of the Partex-Seetex projects, Euratex was able to pursue the work initiated with the future members of the European Union by obtaining some funding to strengthen the ability of the trade associations of these countries to provide tailor-made services to their member industrialists. Indeed, the PERFECT-LINK project enables Euratex to provide the 10 trade associations of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe representing the sector with information which is better focused on the acquis communautaire for textiles and clothing. In the second half of 2003, several seminars (Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia) conveyed to the permanent representatives of these associations more precise messages on research and development, the environment, social affairs, intellectual property rights, State aid, procurement, competition, textile labelling, as well as on trade and statistics.

The EU-25 Textile and Clothing industry (Source: Euratex on Eurostat data)

Year 2002	EU-15	AC-10	EU-25
Turnover – billions €	212,0	11,5	223,5
Employment 1000 pers.	1979,3	704,0	2.683,3
Added Value – billions €	61,8	3,4	65,2
Companies	168.297	38.125	206.422
Investment – billions €	5,93	0,74	6,67
Apparent consumption billions €	341,6	24,9	366,5
Investment/Turnover	2,8%	6,4%	3,0%
Employee/Company	12	18	13

The second part of the project foresees, during the whole of 2004, the organisation by the trade associations of two types of events: [a] « national days »: genuine open house days in each of the partner countries. The objective pursued is to enable the associations to demonstrate the progress achieved in their understanding of European affairs and to increase the visibility of the association with local decision-makers and with their industry. The first events of this type have already taken place in Poland and in Latvia and the results are encouraging. All the other events will have to be organized by March 2005. [b] The training days will be prepared and run by the permanent representatives who attended the presentations organised by Euratex at the end of 2003. The targeted audience is made up of the industrialists who are members of the associations, politicians, officials and the medias so as to enable them to discover other aspects of the activities of their association and to become aware of European affairs.

This strategy is all the more important as on 1st May 2004, the European Union will have 25 members and as the member associations of Euratex located in these new Member States must be able to play a growing role in our activities. This enlargement will enable Euratex to increase its representativeness in the EU-25, as demonstrated in the table above.

Finally, within the framework of the ATC, Euratex made sure that the enlargement would not lead to a too important increase in the quotas that will remain in force

until the end of 2004 to avoid import pressure increasing more. However the integration of these ten new countries will completely modify the appearance of the EU's trade balance for our sector.

Strengthening the Pan Euro Med Zone

As was the case last year, the Paneuromed zone was at the core of our preoccupations. Euratex maintained constant pressure on those in charge of the dossier so that at the Palermo conference (July 2003) the Ministers of the zone would give their final agreement to the harmonisation of the rules of origin and to the implementation of diagonal cumulation in that zone. That political agreement was essential to accelerate implementation. Since then, the Commission has had to solve related problems and to make sure that the texts, in all the different language versions, would not lead to different interpretations. In May 2004, we should reach the final stage: the adoption by the Member States of the new protocols of origin. Again, Euratex will have to remain alert and make sure that the Member States tackle this dossier with the necessary speed.

On the other hand, in 2003/2004, the integration of the Paneuromed zone was reinforced: [a] the EU was finally able to implement the agreement with Egypt, before the final ratification of the agreement by the respective Parliaments, while the agreement with Algeria, dating back to 2001, is still not enforced. Finally, the agreement with Syria, which already contains the new origin protocol, was negotiated but has yet to be signed. With this last agreement, the EU has covered the whole zone; [b] As for Turkey, it was able to finalise its first free-trade agreement with another Mediterranean partner: Morocco. The negotiations had been completed at the end of 2003 but the signing of the agreement was only at the beginning of April 2004. [c] Finally, the Agadir process, linking Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, was finalised in 2003 and signed at the beginning of 2004. This process provides that products originating in those countries will be able to benefit from duty-free customs treatment at the latest as of 1st January 2005 and this agreement already contains the new protocol. One hopes that the Paneuromed zone will finally become a reality by the end of the current year. Unfortunately, Euratex will have to continue fighting hard to ensure that the markets of Mediterranean countries will be opened faster than planned to European products intended for the ultimate consumer.


Alongside these developments, one should draw attention to the recent free-trade agreement that has been concluded between Morocco and the United States and which opens up new prospects for industrialists who could use this Maghreb country as an operational base to supply the USA as well as the Paneuromed zone.

However, a number of assurances still have to be provided regarding access to the Moroccan market for Community products so that our sector will not be less well treated than the American industry.

OTHER THORNY UNRESOLVED ISSUES ...OR ABOUT TO BE RESOLVED...

Customs Issues Are Again Gaining Importance

Another matter which was relevant for many Community operators was the announcement by the EU that products originating in the EU and having undergone minimum processing in Switzerland or in neighbouring preferential



countries would have to pay a duty when re-imported into the EU, contrarily to what is customary. Thanks to the information the associations were able to collect, Euratex was capable of influencing the position of the Commission by demonstrating the prejudicial effect this decision would have. The decision has now been suspended until the beginning of June 2004. Euratex was the first sector to react strongly and there is every hope that the problem will be solved rapidly and satisfactorily for our industrialists.

Preferential Rules of Origin

At the beginning of 2003, the Commission launched a written consultation on the possible modernisation/revision of preferential rules of origin but the operation was stopped in view of the publication of a *Green Paper* on the future of these rules. Finally, this was only published at the end of the year and the thorny issue of preferential rules of origin took up a considerable portion of Euratex's time.

The Green Paper which describes the problems encountered when applying the preferential rules of origin, for all industrial and agricultural products, describes some avenues of reflection for the future regime. Euratex spent a lot of energy to fill in the very exhaustive questionnaire accompanying the Green Paper. Seeking an agreement in this complex field, but essential for the future of our industry, compelled Euratex: [a] to take into account the positions of the various processing stages of the wider Pan Euro Mediterranean zone, [b] but another dimension, as complex as the first one, also had to be taken into account: the impact of the rules on the preferences granted to third countries in other regions, this at the very point in time when these regimes are being renegotiated (ACP countries) or must be renewed (Generalised System of Preferences and development aid). The mission was practically impossible but Euratex was able to co-ordinate the answers to this document as it was well aware of the fact that they inevitably were going to condition its future work and that of its members in 2004-2005. It is very likely that some arbitration will be needed in the coming months depending on the answer the Commission will give to the Green Paper.

Generalised System of Preferences

Within the framework of the revision of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) for the period 2006(?) - 2015, Euratex had frequent contacts with the European Economic and Social Committee having in view the preparation of this Committee's opinion on the issue. Thus, Euratex carried out several statistical analyses pertaining to 2002 which confirm that: [a] the utilisation of GSP benefits is concentrated in the hands of the dominant suppliers; [b] the fact that dominant suppliers are excluded from GSP benefits (e.g. China, Pakistan) does not hinder them from gaining market shares over the least developed countries (LDCs) and small suppliers; [c] ACP countries do not use the GSP since they benefit from a more attractive agreement [d] all the other LDCs do not use the GSP for textiles and clothing, except Bangladesh and, to a lesser extent, Cambodia; [e] even though the GSP is chiefly used for clothing articles and simple made-up products, it is noted that the rate of utilisation as compared with total imports is lower than for textile products.

By next Summer, the Commission should submit a new GSP regime for the period 2006-2014. It is to be hoped that the proposal will take into account all the elements our industry has been providing for the discussion for the last two years, not only within the specific framework of GSP but also within that of the DDA. The discussions might very well again be stormy between, on the one hand, the Member States and the sectors defending a "generous GSP, which would ruin all or some of the tariff negotiations carried out within the framework

of the DDA, and, on the other, those who prefer a more targeted and coherent approach guaranteeing a genuine margin of preference in order to facilitate the industrial development of the least developed countries while maintaining a significant preference for those partners with whom the EU has or will have a free trade agreement.

As indicated above, in addition, we shall have to deal with the thorny issue of a possible simplification/revision of the rules of origin in direct connection with the results of the Green Paper. Obviously the industrial development aspects for our sector in an enlarged EU will be influenced by the answer the Commission and the Member States give regarding the link between trade and the development of the poorest countries in the world. Within that framework the high profile initiative – with a high symbolic value – the setting up at the beginning of 2004 of an electronic help desk for import into the EU by developing countries (containing customs tariffs and rules of origin depending on the preferential regime used) was not well accepted by European companies in the sector.

ECONOMIC DATA AND STATISTICS

The year 2003 saw the consolidation of Mr. Medina's activities to further strengthen EURATEX's economic unit, in replacement of Mrs. Adinolfi, who rejoined the team in September and before leaving again early 2004. This allowed a wider scope of economic analyses and assistance to other departments in their search for arguments to support their files.



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MEDINA

EURATEX continued the work carried out during previous years to revise and further modernize both the harmonized system nomenclature at international level and the combined nomenclature at EU level on the one hand and the NACE on the other.

With regard to the CN proposals, which may come into force as of 1st January 2005, the Commission has generally welcomed the industry position both in terms of simplification and adjustment to industrial reality. Attention has been properly paid to the German Ministry of Finance proposal, which demands a drastic reduction of CN codes in view of small volumes of trade, disregarding actual industry reality. The Secretariat made available to the Commission general as well as specific arguments against this proposal from a number of Member Associations whom we wish to thank.

EURATEX continued to provide periodic analytical data on the development of the industry and trade and pursued the overhaul of the presentation of its publications. This was completed with further one-off market analysis on the evolution of TC trade in the recently liberalised categories, with a particular focus on China, which has rapidly become (in value) the world major exporter of Clothing and second in Textiles after the EU. Similarly, a study on the importance of quota rent in these liberalised categories was published, leading to the conclusion that around 20% of the total price reduction following liberalization can be explained by the disappearance of that rent.

EURATEX economists also provided during 2003 analytical contributions to support EURATEX work both in Environment and Research and Development activities. On the one hand, the economic impact that the new chemical policy REACH could pose to the Textile sub-sectors heavily utilizing chemical inputs was analysed. On the other hand, EURATEX launched a successful survey on Research, Development and Innovation in the TC industry, which highlighted the major tools to spur RDI, RDI cooperation and technology transfer; and identified the key bottlenecks preventing innovation.

Within this framework, and as proof of EURATEX's international impact, it was with pleasure to publish, for the first time, the economic situation of the year 2002 for the Irish, Belarus, Brazilian and South Korean textile and clothing industries, on top of the previous year's Bulgarian, Romanian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Tunisian, Mexican and South African data. This brought the number of world countries covered to 35. During 2003 one expects to include some other countries (e.g. Australia, India or Egypt).

Much of this activity was made possible thanks to the Textile-Clothing Information Centre (CITH). Once again, the latter provided members – throughout the year – with a broad range of statistical information in foreign trade, all on a regular or ad hoc basis. As a result of this information, it was also possible to obtain an economic and statistical base to justify the position submitted by EURATEX to the Community bodies – for research and development projects, for the environment, and for trade. This work has been facilitated by a modernization of statistical resources, which has greatly improved data processing.

EU-15 Textile-Clothing Key Figures 2003

Turnover € Billion	Investment € Billion	Employment (‘000s)	Companies	Export/Turnover	Investment/Turnover
175,9	5,1	1.895,0	98.266	22,8 %	3.00 %

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

In the year 2003 the European Union's 6th Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP6) began in full with several rounds of calls for project proposals in which Euratex participated intensively alongside many partners from Industry and Europe's textiles research community.

While only a few of these initiatives have or will obtain EU funding, it became apparent that FP6's priorities and instruments constitute serious challenges to R&D projects not only from our sector, but for the most part of manufacturing industry. These challenges stem from an unbalanced overall programme budget too much centred on fundamental research on nano-, bio-, information or space technology with too little scope for applied research in the manufacturing field; too complex and sometimes insufficiently explained new project instruments and programme priorities as well as overall too low success rates which put effort-benefit ratios into serious question.

Euratex has continued to work with the relevant Commission services to push for improvements in programme procedures and to obtain more favourable conditions for participation of research consortia from the sector during the remainder of FP6 and later in FP7 (2006-2010) which is already under preparation. In 2004 the textile/clothing High Level Group will be primarily used to voice our sector's R&D needs and priorities at the highest level.

Among the sector's European research initiatives, which were partially successfully pursued in 2003, LEAPFROG clearly stands out. This flagship initiative for "Leadership of European Apparel Production from Research along Original Guidelines" was submitted as an Integrated Project with a total project



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budget of almost € 40 million and an industry-led consortium of some 50 partners. While it was evaluated as a highly relevant and ambitious initiative, fully in line with the EC's R&D priorities, it failed to obtain the requested EC funding due to programme budget constraints. A coordination action however was approved which will allow the consortium to start preparatory work worth some € 1.5 million in mid 2004. Meanwhile the full Integrated Project was resubmitted for EC funding in early 2004 together with a number of other highly promising R&D initiatives in the fields of technical and intelligent textiles or conventional textile processing prepared in partnership with the two European textile research networks Textranet and Autex.

While these new projects will ensure continued strategic research and innovation activity on European level within the textile/clothing sector, a number of earlier projects, all managed by Euratex's EU project officer, Mrs Deborah Santus-Roosen, include Tex-Map, Fashion-on-line, Space2tex and TexSpin were completed or have significantly advanced during the year.

TexMap, completed in July 2003 developed a roadmap for New Organisation and e-business applications" at a horizon of 2010. Its final report is available for download from Euratex's R&D website.

Fashion-On-Line, which finished in early 2004, enabled 10 small and medium sized clothing manufacturers to implement and test the latest software solutions in the field of on-line garment visualisation and virtual design. Documents about the projects impressive results are also available on our website.

Space2Tex which aims to develop a compact cost-effective textile waste water treatment unit based on membrane bio-reactor technology completed its first year. Extensive lab-scale tests were carried out and a design concept for the industrial scale unit has been developed with a view to its pilot installation at two textile mills in Italy and the Czech Republic in 2004.

The TexSpin project, successfully completed in mid 2003, produced a CEN workshop agreement on a set of electronic message standards for web-based supply chain communication along the textile-clothing-distribution pipeline. A follow-up project entitled Tex-Weave has been prepared with the main objective of disseminating TexSpin results and promoting their prompt take-up by industry, which is scheduled to start in the second half of 2004.

ENVIRONMENT

"REACH" The New Chemical Policy

On the 29th of October, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a new EU regulatory framework for chemicals. The new Regulation would replace over 40 existing Directives and Regulations. The aim of "REACH" is to address the weaknesses of the present system and part of which is to define the responsibilities and requirements for both chemicals importers/manufacturers and users. The new system is a 3-step system composed of registration, evaluation and authorisation of chemicals (REACH). The best European Commission estimates put the direct cost of REACH to the chemical industry at 2.3 billion euros.

The cost to downstream users of chemicals is estimated at 2.8 to 3.6 billion euros if 1 to 2 percent of substances are withdrawn. Costs could rise to 4 – 5.2 billion euros if industry faces higher supply chain adaptation costs. An eight weeks Internet consultation on the draft chemicals legislation received the go-ahead on the 12th of May 2003. The consultation focused on the workability of



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the system, following which polymers have been exempted from registration and evaluation, substances in articles have been addressed in a less severe way, the requirement to undertake chemical safety assessments has been considerably restricted, duty of care has been replaced by an explanation of the principles underpinning the Regulation, an appeal board has been included in the Agency, downstream users requirement to undertake chemical safety assessments and produce chemical safety reports have been strictly limited, registration obligations were simplified for 1-10t (no CSR and testing requirements were reduced), requirements for intermediates transported under strict control were reduced. The agency will be solely responsible for registration. Evaluation: the agency will have a greater responsibility for the smooth running of the system and monitoring decision-making. The procedures have been restricted and made clearer, the system of chemical safety report has been better co-ordinated with the already existing system of safety datasheet, the agency now has boosted powers with regard to decisions on data sharing, research and development exemptions and confidentiality and finally strict protection of confidential business information.

Despite the positive evolution of the proposal following the internet consultation, "REACH" still will have serious consequences for the European textile and clothing industry: de-selection of chemicals, high reformulation costs, long time to market and to reformulate, de-selection of uses (non-supported uses by chemicals producer/importer), inadequate and effective control of imported articles, reduction in innovation and loss of competitiveness. Although in principle one might accept the objectives of "REACH", this must not be done at any cost. An unbalanced approach in the objectives and the implementation of the new policy will lead to social and economic drawbacks, which are neither justified nor necessary to achieve the desired objectives, and will cause permanent damage to the industry.

REACH Implementation & Strategic Partnership

The European Commission services have begun planning for the work needed for "REACH" implementation and developed an Interim Strategy. The latter started November 2003 and will end March 2006. Given the opportunity to create a win-win situation, Euratex has shown full commitment. In fact, the resultant strategic partnership will enable the smooth transfer of responsibility under REACH from authorities to industry. Moreover, it will provide an opportunity to gain experience with the future system. It will be established with industry in order to test how the various REACH mechanisms will work in practice. It will be a partnership between consortia of chemical manufactures/importers, downstream users, member state's competent authorities and the European Commission. This will be done on a voluntary basis and have no formal legal consequences. The preparatory work is divided into 5 main projects: "REACH" process description, "REACH"-information technology, technical guidance documents and tools for industry, technical guidance documents and tools for authorities and meeting structures. Euratex is a full partner in the strategic partnership and will actively participate in the work under the different projects listed above without prejudice to its policy line as described above.

Human Exposure to Chemicals from Textiles: EIS ChemRISK

The rationale and objectives and the overall strategy of EIS-ChemRisks is to support the implementation of the General Product Safety Directive (2001/95/EC) and of the relevant aspects of REACH. The first meeting of the task force

expert group on textiles took place in June 16th 2003.

The following key milestones were considered: establishment of the "EU Exposure Assessment Network", development of a "European Exposure Assessment Toolbox" and deployment of sectorial projects "sectorial workshops".

The primary objective is to provide the tools, methods and a platform for a structured stakeholder's dialogue involving the exchange of information on human exposure to chemicals released from products/articles. The first step was to establish an Expert Task Force "Human Exposure to Chemicals from Textiles," followed by agreement on the work programme and then jointly carrying it out.

In this respect, the regulatory review is considered as a starting point for the Task Force to establish a common knowledge base about the currently applied regulations and those under development impacting on the use of chemicals in the textiles sector across the world. The human health effects review: develop an authoritative "observatory" on the evidence of the health effects associated with consumer exposures to chemicals present in textiles, an inventory of chemicals used in textiles: exposure data (measured and modelled) and exposure scenarios: to establish a sectorial exposure assessment "toolbox" of guidance, other information, and data to facilitate a structured stakeholders' dialogue.

EURATEX has stressed the complexity of the textiles sector and the diversity of different products that need to be taken into consideration. It has recommended that this be taken into account when narrowing down the roadmap of the project, and highlighted Industry's need for clear guidance on how to carry out exposure assessments.

Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC)

A high level of protection of the environment, which is the overriding objective of the IPPC Directive, can only be achieved if authorities in charge of implementation make the efforts necessary for correct implementation and engage in constructive interaction with plant operators and other stakeholders. A large number of Member States need to accelerate progress towards this objective and the majority of the Acceding Countries must continue to significantly enhance their efforts. Most decisions about binding environmental standards are taken at national level in line with the principle of "subsidiarity".

If it becomes clear that their efforts to implement the directive are insufficient, it might be necessary to consider a higher degree of harmonisation to ensure reasonable consistency between permits issued by different authorities, or alternative ways to achieve the directive's objectives.

A report by the European Commission indicated that several Member States have experienced delays in enacting national legislation giving effect to the Directive. There are major suspected or confirmed shortcomings in the conformity of national legislation with the provision of the Directive for several Member States in the EU-15. Ambiguities in the Directive give rise to difficulties in implementation i.e. how should the threshold criteria be interpreted? How should the boundaries of an installation be drawn given that the definition includes all directly associated activities with a technical link? When should change be considered as substantial? How should emission limits be derived from the levels for BAT indicated in "BREF"? What is meant by "return the site to a satisfactory state"? How should permit conditions be written for such aspects as accidents, waste minimisation and energy efficiency? How and how often should inspections be carried out and what kind of information should be included in monitoring reports? When should companies that exceed their limit values be prosecuted and what other enforcement measures are effective?

According to the same report some Candidate Countries have requested



transition periods for the implementation of the Directive. Up to 20% of the existing installations in some countries have been granted a transition period. They will not be obliged to meet emission limit values based on BAT until 2008-12 depending on the transition periods agreed in each case.

In 2003 full transposition has been achieved in eight of the thirteen Candidate Countries. In three acceding countries transposition has yet to take place.

The candidate countries have mostly opted for a system of integrated permits and need to strengthen their administration in particular at regional and local level. Staff needs to be trained in issuing integrated permits and in several cases staff increases may be necessary. The countries will face significant problems in implementing the Directive for all new installations by accession. The European Commission outlined that there is no evidence that BAT prevents those companies using them and achieving good environmental standards from remaining competitive both nationally and internationally. Many plants that perform well on the environmental front are able to use this as a competitive strength. It does not follow, however, that early introduction of best available techniques by other plants would have little or no negative impact on their competitiveness.

The European Parliament rapporteur took the view that a definitive assessment of the efficacy and/or need for improvement of the directive cannot usefully be made until national reports have been submitted about the actual transposition of the directive with regard to existing installations. He also took the view that the national authorities responsible for the implementation of the directive must be given time to familiarise themselves with the current legal situation and acquire the requisite new expertise. The rapporteur was therefore fundamentally opposed any expansion or extension of the directive before 30 October 2007 and called on the Commission to draw up a "guidance document" to clarify the definition of "installation" and of annex I. concerning the interpretation of the term "production capacity". The Commission should take account not only of the capacity at which the installation is technically capable of being operated but also of actual restrictions on capacity.

Euratex underlined the hurdle to overcome related to the concept of "Treatment Capacity" as described in the EU Directive and its possible different interpretations in national legislation.

Integrated Product Policy

IPP is a policy based on a number of actions to stimulate continuous improvement in the environmental performance of products throughout their whole life cycle. The European Commission underlined that the manufacture, the use and disposal of products are the cause of many of the environmental challenges we face. Product related environmental policies have tended to focus on large point sources of pollution. These policies, for the European Commission, need to be complemented by a policy that looks at the whole of a product's life cycle, including the use phase. It means that environmental impacts are addressed at the point in the life cycle where they will best and most cost effectively reduce the overall environmental impacts and resource use. The policy takes into account several characteristics of products that make them diffuse objects for pollution reduction measures. These are products' overall quantity as variety is increasing, innovation constantly creates new types of products, products are traded globally, products are becoming more complex, and inappropriate use and disposal impacts on the environment and involve a greater variety of actors throughout their life-cycle.

The approach is based on five key principles. First and foremost life cycle thinking: it considers a product's life cycle and aims for a reduction of its cumulative environmental impact. Second, working with the market: setting incentives so that the market moves in a more sustainable direction by encouraging the supply

and demand of greener products. Third, stakeholder's involvement: encourage all those who come into contact with the product to act on their sphere of influence and encourage cooperation between the different stakeholders. Fourth, continuous improvement in design, manufacture, use and disposal rather than setting a precise threshold to be obtained. Fifth, variety of policy instruments: this ranges from voluntary initiatives to regulation and from the local to the international scale. To achieve its objective, the policy will perform three key roles: it will contribute to addressing the environmental challenges identified in both Sustainable Development Strategy and the Sixth Environment Action Program, it will supplement existing product-related policies, by providing a wider, « life cycle », conceptual framework in which the ramifications for any other environmental problems can be considered, and strengthen the coordination and coherence between existing and future environmental related product policy instruments. Two interrelated actions to move toward achieving the objective, establishing the framework conditions for the continuous environmental improvement of all products throughout the production, use and disposal phases of their life cycle and developing a focus on products with the greatest potential for environmental improvement.

Tools for creating the right economic and legal framework are: taxes and subsidies, getting the price right through internalising environmental externalities into the price of a product so that its environmental impacts are accurately reflected in the price, voluntary agreements and standardisation will be considered in addition to legislation and public procurement use to drive the "greening" of the product, tools for promoting the application of life-cycle thinking: making life cycle information and interpretative tools available, and environmental management systems will provide a good framework for integrating life cycle thinking and for achieving continuous improvement and product design obligations and tools for giving the consumer the information to decide: greening public procurement, greener corporate purchasing and environmental labelling; developing a focus on particular products: voluntary pilot projects: the concept can best be brought to life by applying it to a number of products individually in a pilot project exercise. Stakeholders are invited to submit their suggestions for these pilot products (by the end of October) and identifying which products have the greatest potential for environmental improvement. A methodology will be initiated for identifying these products.

Euratex has underlined that life cycle assessments (LCA) depend on the boundaries defined. Ultimately each product may have its advantages and disadvantages. Two thirds of the life-cycle of a product's environmental impact comes from care (consumer care). It will also be impossible to put all fibres in one basket and analyse them according to the LCA approach, because their impact on the environment would depend on their use. These aspects are very hard to influence, consequently, life-cycle assessment is difficult to achieve and may be misleading. Euratex raised the question of public procurement by indicating that it represents a large percentage of earnings in the EU and it is independently regulated.

Any new obligations must balance the benefits with costs for the industry. Euratex would object to any new set of obligations including new environmental parameters. The Euratex 2001 position paper is in its entirety still valid.

Waste: Towards a Thematic Strategy on the Prevention & Recycling of Waste

The European Commission has made a first contribution to the development of a thematic strategy that will cover both waste prevention and recycling. It has been inspired by a life cycle approach to resources management and takes the waste phase as its starting point. Waste prevention and recycling



can reduce the environmental impact of resource use in two ways: avoiding negative environmental impacts from the extraction of primary raw materials and from the transformation of primary raw materials in production processes. The European Commission takes the view that waste prevention and recycling is part of a broader waste management strategy. The challenge is to find the optimal recycling rate and the best combination of different approaches. Additionally, the focus on environmental benefits achievable through waste prevention and recycling at upstream phases of life cycle resources must be complemented by reducing environmental impacts at the waste management phase including in waste recycling.

Waste prevention: the objective of the European Commission is to launch, for the first time, a consultation process leading to the development of a comprehensive strategy including waste prevention targets and the instruments needed to achieve them, including identifying potentials for waste prevention, exchange of best practices and experience with a view to defining how the EU may contribute to these, the role of the future chemicals policy as regards qualitative prevention of waste, exploring how voluntary or mandatory waste prevention plans could contribute to waste prevention and assessing the waste prevention potential of the directive on integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC)

Waste recycling: the European Commission invites comments on options to promote recycling including on the development of material based recycling targets in articulation with end of life product based targets, getting the price of the different waste treatment options right by using economic instruments which could include tradable certificates, the co-ordination of national landfill taxes, promoting “pay-as-you-throw” schemes and making producers responsible for recycling and ensuring recycling is both easy and clean. In some cases, implementation of EU waste law may have led to unnecessary burdens on the recycling industry. Such problems need to be identified and solved. Additionally, common approaches for recycling could ensure that recycling businesses apply the best available technology.

Waste: Packaging and Packaging Waste

Directive 94/62 on packaging waste aims to harmonise national measures concerning the management of packaging and packaging waste in order to prevent any impact thereof on the environment of all Member States or to reduce such impact thus providing a high level of environmental protection. The agreement reached in the Conciliation Committee following the co-decision procedure overcomes the last hurdles in a long debate on the revision of the 1994 Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive. The final debate mainly focused on two issues: whether incineration of packaging waste should count as ‘recovery’ or not, and the deadline for Greece, Ireland and Portugal and accession countries to achieve the targets of the Directive.

Recent judgements by the European Court of Justice had clarified that incineration of municipal waste in incinerators is to be considered a disposal operation if the main purpose of the operation is to dispose of the waste. Recovery of the contained energy as heat or electricity would not change this classification. This also meant that packaging waste incinerated in such installations could no longer be counted in the recovery targets of the Packaging Directive. Several Member States had used incineration as part of their strategy to fulfil the EU targets and were now faced with falling short of the targets under the new interpretation. The solution found allows Member States to continue to count incineration for the EU targets, but also foresees a general review of this issue in the framework of the EU Thematic Strategy on Waste Prevention and Recycling. In a compromise between the European Parliament and the Council, the deadline for Greece, Ireland and Portugal to achieve the targets has been set at 2011. This reduces

the additional delay compared to the other 12 Member States from currently four to three years. The deadline for accession countries will be set under a new proposal which the Commission intends to issue. With a view to the forthcoming accession, this will allow the new countries to fully participate in the decision-making process on their transition periods.

The packaging definition is differently interpreted at national levels and over the years led to numerous discussions and court proceedings. For the textile industry, the interpretation dilemma affects the status of cones, tubes and beams that are an integral part of the production process and must not be considered as packaging waste. During the last years the textile industry had to deal with the implications of such a situation.

Euratex’s objective was to exclude these materials as a packaging example in annex I to Directive 94/62. This objective was achievable within the wordings of amendment n° 47 of the European Parliament “tubes and cylinders round which flexible material is wound are not packaging”. In the European Council only Belgium and Finland were in favour of this amendment. The Council on 7 March 2003 adopted a common position not fully to our satisfaction. Amendment 47 of the European Parliament was seen as an issue, which could usefully be dealt with via a technical adaptation of the Directive.

Overview of Main Changes

	1994 Directive	2001 Commission Proposal	Conciliation Agreement
Deadlines	EU 12: 2001 GR, IRL, P: 2005 Acceding States: varying transition periods (Accession Treaty)	EU 12: 2006 GR, IRL, P: 2009 Acceding States: to be addressed after end of accession negotiation	EU 12: 2008 GR, IRL, P: 2011 Acceding States: to be set in a new proposal
Recovery target	50-65%	60-75%	60% (no maximum; incineration with energy recovery may be counted)
Recycling target	25-45%	55-70%	55-80%
Material targets	All materials 15%	Glass 60% Paper 55% Metals 50% Plastics 15% Wood --	Glass 60% Paper 60% Metals 50% Plastics 22.5% Wood 15%

Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

The European Commission aims to launch a debate on a framework for using resources which supports the EU’s sustainable development strategy. The European Commission outlines the main features that a future strategy should comprise, building on existing policies but it does not propose specific measures to this end. This will be done in the final strategy to be presented in 2004. The resource strategy would focus on reducing environmental impacts, enabling growing economies to use resources efficiently, from both an economic and an environmental point of view. This decoupling is the overarching goal to which this strategy will contribute. It will be necessary to ensure that policies that influence directly or indirectly the use of resources strike a balance between the economic, environmental and social pillars of sustainable development. This will be a long process. The strategy has to determine which resources at any given time are

of biggest concern and will comprise three strategic elements that will apply continuously throughout its life. First, knowledge gathering. Second, the use of natural resources is influenced by numerous environmental policies. Third, policy integration. The strategy will work towards increasing the integration of resource-related environmental issues into other policies that influence the environmental impacts of the use of natural resources. The European Commission will in an open and collaborative process involving stakeholders, develop a comprehensive strategy to be proposed in 2004. An advisory forum will be established to steer the policy development process. Working groups will also be established to address the specific resources or key issues and analyse them from the three perspectives of sustainable development (environmental, economic and social).

Water

On 7 May 2003 the Commission adopted a Communication on the Internal Market Strategy Priorities 2003-2006 (COM(2003)238). The Communication states that "the Commission services will undertake a review of the legal and administrative situation in the water and waste-water sector.

This will include an analysis of the competition aspects, in full respect of Treaty guarantees for services of general economic interest and environmental provisions". This follows a recent study on competition in the water sector carried out for DG Competition. As a one of the initial steps, the EC would like to gather information on the water sector from water intensive industrial users and/or organisations representing them.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

EURATEX's activities in respect of Social Affairs may be divided into two areas: the European Social Dialogue on the one hand, which takes the form of two to three meetings per year with the European Textile Clothing and Leather Trades Union (ETUF: TCL), and a range of more diverse issues on the other. This year, the social partners attended two SDC meetings on 10th March and 3rd September in Brussels.

Amongst the different dossiers on the agenda, the social partners discussed:

- Report from Commission services on the communication on the T&C sector (29/10/2003)
- Preparation and follow-up of joint projects under the Leonardo programme and the European Social dialogue budget line B3-4000
- Preparation of a possible joint Euratex/ETUF:TCL working group with a view to co-drafting a questionnaire for the various levels of sectoral social dialogues.

The main social issues discussed in 2003 were:

1. Common Guide Project on Public Procurement

The European joint project of Euratex (represented by PROMPTEX) and its social partner ETUF:TCL to establish a guide on promoting quality in public procurement officially concluded in December 2002. The draft Manual was finalized and presented to the partners during a general meeting in Paris on 5 March 2003. This guideline highlights the difficulties related to the preference of lowest price as the essential criterion. It also highlights the importance of some existing standards such as ILO Convention 94, the case law of the European Court of



Stéphanie
LE BERRE

Justice accepting social criteria in the award and the ongoing discussion in the EP and Council, and will be useful to assist public authorities in selecting best value. Promptex expressed its intention to start a "road-show" to promote this guide in various countries, and organised a conference already in Belgium and France.

2. European Pilot Project on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct in Turkey

Euratex, in close collaboration with its Turkish member and the European and Turkish trade Unions, agreed to participate in a European project drafted by the ILO for a better implementation of the sectoral code of conduct in Turkey. This project is designed to demonstrate the linkage between quality, productivity and worker management relations and through the education and development of both managers and workers, to provide them with the skills and tools necessary to achieve their objectives and to enhance their future prospects. Given that the majority of workers in the apparel and textile sector are female, particular attention had to be paid to their needs. Given the crosscutting dimension of the problems to be addressed, their link to the fundamental principles and rights at work and the direct involvement of both workers and managers, the project had to be carried out with inputs from ACTRAV, ACT/EMP and from SECTOR.

Euratex particularly took part in the steering committee, in collaboration with the trade Union ETUF/TCL, and assisted in overseeing the development of the modules, expert selection, and was consulted by the ILO at various points during the project implementation. This project was submitted to the European Commission to be financed by the budget line B3-4000 (Information, Consultation and Participation of Representatives and Undertakings).

3. European Leonardo Pilot Project to Develop New European Wide CD ROMs for Textile Training: EUROTT

EURATEX expressed keen interest in the objectives of a proposal from the Confederation of British Wool Textiles for a Leonardo pilot project to develop new European wide CD ROMs for textile training and to develop a new learning module in hosiery and carpet manufacture which will be transferable across all partner countries. Euratex particularly agreed to be involved in taking part in the Dissemination Focus Group ensure that the results of the project are used by target groups, target sectors and potential users. This project has been accepted by the EU Commission. The timing of this project is two years starting in October 2003.

4. Invitation from ETUF: TCL in the Framework of their Project N.E.T., Rome

Our social partner ETUF: TCL invited us to present the results of the European social dialogue during a meeting organised in the framework of a project called N.E.T. on "a bargaining framework for European workers in the textile and clothing sector". During the meeting, Euratex clearly reminded those present of the strictly limited mandate of the federation in this field, and also recalled the different interesting issues in other fields (as training issues, economic issues, the code of conduct, etc.) tackled by the social partners since the beginning of their dialogue.

5. European Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility- Venice- 13-14/11/2003

Euratex, at the request of UNICE, participated in the third conference on Corporate Social Responsibility, organised by the Italian Presidency with the support of the European Commission. Representatives from Member States and, for the first time, Acceding Countries exchanged experience, knowledge and best practices on Public Policies promoting CSR. This European Conference was addressed to all European Governments, Trade Unions, NGOs, Businesses, Employers, with particular emphasis on SMEs.

During this conference the Italian Presidency expressed its will to work to define a common European framework to evaluate CSR initiatives, in particular, to develop commonly agreed guidelines and criteria for CSR self assessment, measurement, reporting and assurance. Euratex participated in the specific workshop dedicated to SMEs and particularly emphasised the financial and practical difficulties encountered by Textile and Clothing SMEs in promoting CSR initiatives.

TECHNICAL TEXTILES

(Stéphanie LE BERRE)

During the meeting of the Board of Directors on March 19th 2003, Euratex decided to create a new Working Group dedicated to Technical Textiles. One of the objectives of this Working Group will be to find a working definition of technical textiles, and also to grasp its economic and social importance in Europe. Furthermore the Working Group will have to establish an action plan for its future activities at European level. The Directors General of the Euratex members appointed Mr. Fa Quix, Director General of FEBELTEX, as the Chairman of this new Working Group. Thanks to the dynamism and the enthusiasm of its participants, three meetings were organised in 2003.

The first meeting took place in Brussels on Thursday 12 June, and the various participants agreed to tackle three action points for the immediate future:

- Collecting data and figures on number of companies, number of employees, turnover, share of TT in the textile industry, three main applications in TT in each country.
- EU-directories of companies of TT based on the national input (national directories)but on a common platform (Messe Frankfurt is a good basis). It is essential that cooperation between Euratex and ETT is organized so that there will be no duplication and only one EU-directory for TT.
- Each country and branch association will do its utmost to get information about networking which is so important in this field.

As this first meeting was as a success, Euratex decided to organise another meeting on 17 September in Brussels. To prepare this next meeting two questionnaires were sent to the members of Euratex:

- The first one on the facts and figures of technical textiles in each European country.
- The second one about networking in technical textiles, which gives an opportunity to amplify these partners in networking in technical textiles.

The third meeting of the Technical Textile working group took place in Milan on 5th November at the same time as a conference on " building the future with interactive textiles" organized by the association TEXCLUBTEC (this conference is a first step of an action plan to boost the development of technical and innovative textiles, and aims at drawing attention to technical textiles, as well as focusing on their interactive role with society and the market in defining products and innovative applications. During this meeting, participants focused on the

setting-up of a European Directory, to identify Technical textile suppliers and potential markets, the creation of a European networking between all the parties involved in Technical Textiles (companies, research centers, other sectors...), the validation of the definition and the key figures of Technical Textiles in the different countries. They also agreed to organise a European conference on Technical Textiles, under the auspices of Euratex, to be held in Brussels at the end of 2004 or beginning 2005, to promote the image of this specific sector.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

(Stéphanie LE BERRE)

The Intellectual Property Agenda over the final months of 2002 and into 2003 was dominated by six major issues.

1- EU Customs and Fight against Counterfeiting



The exhibition on counterfeiting – European Parliament January 2004

A NEW EC CUSTOMS REGULATION TO FIGHT AGAINST COUNTERFEITING

Euratex closely collaborated with the EU Commission-DG Taxud to tackle counterfeiting and piracy in 2003. Following several meetings with stakeholders and the Commission, DG TAXUD decided to take into account several recommendations and comments from the Industry and published in January 2003 a proposal for a new EU customs regulation to improve the situation. Replacing the existing Regulation (EC) No 3295/94, the proposed regulation already represented a major breakthrough in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy, by also taking into consideration the interests and specificities of Textile and Clothing SME's.

The new EC customs regulation (1383/2003) was finally adopted by the EU Council on 22nd July 2003, and will enter into force on **1 July 2004** and replace the existing regulation (3295/94/EC). It sets out the conditions under which customs authorities may intervene where goods are suspected of infringing intellectual property rights.

This regulation intended to make the law clearer, extend its scope to new intellectual property rights, make the rules more accessible for right holders and provide a more effective legal instrument against these kinds of fraud.

The major recommendations previously expressed by Euratex to the Commission in this field have been incorporated in this new regulation.

UNPRECEDENTED T&C SEIZURES AT THE EU CUSTOMS

This improvement of the legal aspects combined with new practical initiatives, led to unprecedented statistical results in 2001 and 2002. The figures of the report from DG TAXUD for 2002 demonstrate how far-reaching the counterfeiting phenomenon is, especially in Textiles and Clothing. Indeed, the figures for Textiles and Clothing have doubled since 2001, with accessories (belts, spectacles, bags) accounting for the greatest increase. Out of the total amount of counterfeit and pirated goods seized in 2002, 9.2 million were clothing articles and clothing accessories (compared to 2001 with 4.7 Million). Textile and clothing products still remain by far the products that generate the highest number of customs procedures, i.e. 4.380 procedures for the year 2002 (out of 7.553 procedures; i.e. more than half of all customs interventions).

T&C counterfeit products seized in 2002 (source: DG TAXUD)

	2001	2002	%
Total quantity of goods intercepted	94.421.497	84.951.039	- 10 %
Quantity of textile goods intercepted	4.782.672	9.243.074	+ 93 %
Of which: Number of sportswear	340.432	378.252	+ 11 %
and: other clothing	1.795.834	3.067.583	+ 71%
and: Clothing accessories (bags, glasses, belts...)	2.642.406	5.797.238	+ 119%
Total number of procedures	5.056	7.553	+ 49%
Number of procedures for T and C	2.628	4.380	+ 67%

EU CUSTOMS SEMINARS AGAINST COUNTERFEITING

In tandem with this legislative effort, the Commission also organised, in association with business circles, an increasing number of practical seminars, training courses and exchanges of officials to establish the best possible protection at the Union's existing frontiers. The future Member States were involved in this process. Taking into consideration the valuable input of the Industry in this area, the Commission invited EURATEX to take an active part in the setting-up of EU operational customs seminars. Euratex participated in these seminars, and particularly the one organised in Brussels from 27th till 29th October 2003. This seminar, which was part of the Commission's Customs 2007 programme, brought together operational experts and specialists from trade and industry including customs officers from more than 30 countries. This combined

expertise was harnessed to develop new ways to tackle illegal trade in counterfeit products. Euratex had already participated in some of the numerous seminars already organised under the auspices of the Customs 2002 programme (Bercy in November 2000 and Athens in June 2002), involving experts in the legislative and operational sectors, right holders and inter-professional associations. These events also aimed to improve customs procedures through scheduling follow-up action, aimed at the identification of best practices, the improvement of information exchange, and the improvement of working methods using risk analysis.

2- Follow-up of the Green Paper against Counterfeiting: the EU Draft Directive

After a two years wait, the European Commission (DG MARKT) finally published in January 2003 the proposal for a directive on the enforcement of Intellectual Property rights within the European Union (called EU directive "on measures and procedures to ensure the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights"). The objectives of the proposal are to harmonise national laws on the means of enforcing intellectual property rights to ensure a level playing field for right holders in the EU, reinforcing measures against offenders and thus act as a deterrent against those engaged in counterfeiting and piracy. Nevertheless, several sectors expressed their disappointment in view of the weakness of these measures against offenders, as well as their scepticism as to the efficiency of IPR enforcement following this directive. The proposal is theoretically due to complement the new EU Regulation 1383/2003 to facilitate seizures by customs of counterfeit goods from outside the EU. The proposal had to go forward to the European Parliament and the EU Council of Ministers for adoption under the so-called 'co-decision' procedure. During this process, Euratex closely and constantly collaborated with MEP Mrs Janelly Fourtou, rapporteur at the European Parliament for this proposal.

The report presented by Mrs Fourtou summarises the main remarks already expressed by the Industry on this proposal (advocating, for example, the deletion of the limitation of the scope of the proposal to infringements committed for « commercial purposes» or which cause "significant harm to the right holder")

Up to the adoption of the directive (in April 2004), EURATEX closely followed the discussions both at EU Parliament and at Council levels, and sent the appropriate comments and recommendations from the T&C Industry to contribute to the rapid adoption of this important document.

3- Actions at EU Parliament Level to Fight against Counterfeiting:

As two important draft community documents against counterfeiting, the draft directive from DG Markt (co-decision procedure) and the draft customs regulation from DG Taxud (simple opinion), were on the table of the EU Parliament, EURATEX strengthened the lobby on MEP's concerning these issues. Euratex took part in a meeting organised by Mrs Concepcio Ferrer, MEP on "combating Textile and clothing counterfeiting and piracy" at the European Parliament on March 31st 2004. Euratex also discussed with some MEP's, and particularly Mrs Janelly Fourtou, rapporteur for the draft directive, the possibility to organize an exhibition on counterfeiting and piracy within the European Parliament in order to make the MEPs aware of this international phenomenon, and of the risks for consumers, textile and clothing companies, and national economies in general. Hence the need to make the public aware of the phenomenon of counterfeiting in a more didactic manner, through actions and addresses illustrated by samples and concrete examples of counterfeiting. It is for this reason that EURATEX, in

collaboration with other Industries organised an exhibition around this theme within the European Parliament itself, based upon three main concepts:

- The need to raise awareness that counterfeiting does not merely affect brands, but also designs and models, patents, copyright, geographical indications, etc...
- The necessity to raise awareness that counterfeiting does not only impact upon multinational companies, but also small and medium-sized companies...
- The need to promote an awareness that counterfeiting attacks all sectors of industry, from toys, through textiles and clothing, spare parts for automobiles, washing powders, and includes foodstuffs and pharmaceutical products.
- The exhibition took place over four days, from 26th to 29th January 2004, at a time when the Parliament was still debating the proposed directive on the means of ensuring the respect of intellectual property rights within the EU (DG Markt).



The launch of 4 IPR

The year 2003 also saw the European Parliament's Declaration on the fight against piracy and counterfeiting in the enlarged EU to be adopted (on 5 June), with 321 signatures of MEP's obtained with the support of Euratex. As this Declaration is only the fifth ever to be adopted by the Parliament, this sends a strong political signal to the European institutions. EURATEX very much encouraged its members to use it in their own lobbying and publicity activities.

4- Activities of EURATEX on the "Acquis Communautaire" in IPR:

As the candidate countries still have to undergo some efforts to meet the EU accession criteria, including capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces and approximation of legislation with the *acquis communautaire*, Euratex agreed to take an active part to contribute to the dissemination of information on the *acquis communautaire* in the area of IPR. Thus Euratex organised, in collaboration with TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange office; DG Enlargement) and the Bulgarian Textile and Clothing Industry, a workshop on the *acquis communautaire* for the Textile and Clothing Sector in Bulgaria, Plovdiv, on 15-16 October 2003. With the assistance of Mrs Ursula Oefinger, legal Advisor of our German Member, Euratex presented the current EU legislation on several issues, including the EU legislation related to Intellectual Property rights and the fight against counterfeiting and piracy. Euratex also participated in the Bosmip meeting (Roundtable on Intellectual Property Rights in the EU 25 to the attention of the employers' associations in Candidate Countries), organized by the MEDEF (French employers' association) in Paris in

November 2003, related to the fight against counterfeiting and piracy within the European Union (the proposal for a directive to enforce IPR within the EU) and at the external borders (the new EU Customs Regulation from July 2003).

Euratex also agreed to intervene on behalf of the Textile and Clothing Sector during the seminar organized by TAIEX in October in Brussels on "Workshop on consumer risk from fraudulent misrepresentation of goods".

The objective of the workshops was to inform Ministries, Business and Consumers from all 13 Candidate Countries of the health and safety risks associated with the fraudulent misrepresentation of goods. Euratex particularly stressed the importance of the economic and social risks associated with this illegal trade. Euratex collaborated with other professional organisations and associations and participated in several events, such as the International conference of the Anti-Counterfeiting Group ACG in London on May 2003. This conference concerned the detection, investigation and prosecution of serious product counterfeiters and pirates: the operational aspects of the enforcement of intellectual property rights. Euratex more particularly presented the new legal aspects of the EU draft regulation against counterfeiting at the external borders, and highlighted the main improvements and advantages for the Industry, and particularly for SMEs.

5- EU Project in IPR:

EURATEX accepted (together with IFPI, representing the musical Industry) to participate to the follow-up of the 4IPR pilot project (R&D project), aimed at creating a pan-European network offering appropriate access to existing information resources held in public and private sector organisations working in the field of anti-counterfeiting. 4IPR could assist with:

- Networking the operational experts across private and public sectors
- Reporting cases and providing enforcement agencies with secure access to restricted IPR owner data
- Improving the availability of specialised information on IPR protection and enforcement
- Improving the effectiveness of security technology devices and access to developers
- Disseminating important awareness messages to the consumers and general public

IPR could be a secure platform and single source of information for relevant audiences across Europe. It would integrate a network of operational organisations and be operated by a non-profit company created for its future management and maintenance. It could be accessible to the whole EU, the candidate states and relevant global organisations and enforcement agencies. This new project had to be presented to the Commission in 2003 for a possible start in 2004.

6- TRIP's agreement and enforcement of IPR:

In view of the worrying increase in volume and value of violations of intellectual property rights, namely in the form of piracy and counterfeiting and of the growing concerns expressed by Community right-holders about these practices, DG TRADE decided at the end of 2002 to launch a survey in order to assess the situation in third countries. Euratex members contributed to this survey. In May 2003, Euratex sent to its members an overview of the results of the survey made by DG TRADE. The picture revealed by the participants showed a problematic situation in numerous countries, reaching most areas of intellectual property and affecting an important part of the Community's industrial and commercial sectors

for goods (and also some services). It cannot be said that such results constituted a surprise, in view of our experience and of the complaints that we constantly receive from right-holders. However, by identifying with more clarity and actuality the problems, the survey provides us with the opportunity to consider what can be done to improve the situation and where.

Euratex is still in contact with DG TRADE on possible future actions intended to improve the level of enforcement of IPR in countries outside the European Community.

7- Meetings of the Euratex working group “Intellectual Property”

Taking into account the fact that Euratex has worked in a vacuum vis-à-vis Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) matters while those matters are becoming more and more intricate and need more expertise than before, the Mandate and Review Body accepted the proposal to create a WG dealing with IPR matters. Euratex organised two meetings in 2003, which were chaired by Mrs. Françoise Benhamou (representing UFIH). The main issues tackled were:

- Discussion on a strategy of Euratex on the fight against counterfeiting
- The drafting of a practical handbook on community designs;
- The drafting of a position paper on the proposed directive on the respect of intellectual property in the internal market;
- The drafting of a position paper for the attention of the Commission on the respect of the TRIP's provisions, and especially the specific provisions for textile designs (article 25§2).

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Gospodarska Zbornica Slovenije
Chamber of Commerce and Industry of
Slovenie, Textiles,
Clothing and Leather Processing Association
Dimiceva 9
SI – 1504 Ljubljana – Slovenia
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Fax: 00/386/1/5898.100-5898.200
E-mail: jadranka.marasovic@gzs.si
Internet: www.GZS.SI

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ES – 08010 Barcelona – Espagne
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Fax: 00/34/93/302.6235
E-mail: intertextil@aitpa.es
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S – 11485 Stockholm – Suède
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SWITZERLAND

Gesamtverband der Schweizerischen Textil- und
Bekleidungsindustrie
Beethovenstrasse 20 – Postfach 2900
CH – 8022 Zürich – Suisse
Tel.: 00/41/1/289.79.00
Fax: 00/41/1/289.79.81
E-mail: contact@tvs.ch
Internet: www.swisstextiles.ch

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British Apparel & Textile Confederation – BATC
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GB – London W1B 1PW – United Kingdom
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Fax: 00/44/20/7636.75.15
E-mail: batc@dial.pipex.com
Internet: www.batc.co.uk

TURKEY

Turkish Clothing Manufacturers' Association & Turkish
Clothing Exporters' Association
Mehmet Akif Cad., 1. Sok.,
Akin Is Merkezi – 2
NO: 23 Kat: 5 D: 19 Sirinevler
Turkey – 34510 Istanbul
Tel.: 00/90/212/639.76.56
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E-mail: tgsd@tgsd.org
Internet: www.tgsd.org

TUTSIS – Türkiye Tekstil Sanayii Isverenleri Sendikasi
Turkish Textile Employers' Association
Visnezade Cami Meydani Sok. Efe Apt. 6/10
Turkey – 80680 Istanbul
Tel.: 00/90/212/260.1405-09
Fax: 00/90/212/258.2974
00/90/212/227.4003
E-mail: info@tekstilisveren.org.tr
Internet: www.tekstilisveren.org.tr

ITKIB – Turkish Textile and Apparel Exporters'
Association
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Fax: 00/90/212/454.04.09
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International Rayon and Synthetic Fibres Committee – CIRFS

Avenue E. Van Nieuwenhuysse 4 –
B – 1160 Bruxelles – Belgique
Tel.: 02/676.74.55
Fax: 02/676.7454
E-mail: info@cirfs.org
Internet: www.cirfs.org

Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. – CRIET

c/o VTN – Postbus 518
NL – 3900 AM Veenendaal – Pays Bas
Tel.: 00/31/3185/644.88
Fax: 00/31/3185/644.87
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Internet: www.criet.org

Committee of the Cotton and Allied Textile Industries of the E.U. – EUROCOTON

24 rue Montoyer – Bte 13
B – 1000 Bruxelles – Belgique
Tel.: 02/230.32.39
Fax: 02/230.36.22
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Committee of the Wool Textile Industries in the E.U. – INTERLAINE

rue Montoyer 24 – Bte 12
B – 1000 Bruxelles – Belgique
Tel.: 02/285.48.99
Fax: 02/230.60.54
E-mail: gmercier.interlaine@euratex.org
Internet: www.interlaine.org

International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns and of Natural Silk – AIUFFASS

Poortakkerstraat 98
B – 9051 Gent/Sint-Denijs-Westrem – Belgique
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Fax: 09/242.98.29
E-mail: pvm@gent.febeltex.be

European Carpet Association – ECA

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B – 1000 Bruxelles – Belgique
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Fax: 02/280.18.09
E-mail: paulette.de.wilde@euratex.org

International Federation of Sewing Thread Manufacturers – F.I.F.

La Maison Des Professions – 40 Rue Eugene Jacquet – Sac Postal 15
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Fax: 00/33/320/650.638
E-mail: Jacques_DUFOUR.UITNORD@textile.fr
Internet: www.textile.fr

European Linen and Hemp Confederation – C.E.L.C.

rue du Louvre 15 – Bâtiment 3 – Escalier A
F – 75001 Paris – France
Tel.: 00/33/1/4221.0235
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E-mail: celc.sg@wanadoo.fr
Internet: www.mastersoffinen.com

European Liaison Committee of Twine, Rope and Netting Industries – EUROCORD

rue de Monceau 47 –
F – 75008 Paris – France
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European Ribbon, Braid and Elastic Fabrics Association – AERTEL

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International Liaison Committee for Embroideries, Curtains and Laces – CELIBRIDE

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European Textile Services Association (ETSA)

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Fédération Européenne pour la Promotion des Marchés Publics (PROMPTEX)

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Fédération Nationale du Textile Tunisien

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International Confederation of Manufacturers of Furnishing Fabrics – C.I.T.A.

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