



# Indian Leather

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December - 2023

No.10

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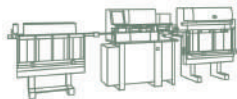
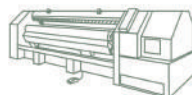
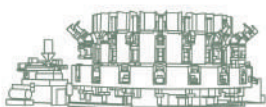
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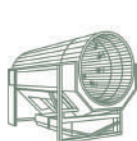
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**Global Leather Industry**

Global Leather Industry leaders, in an interview to Leatherinsiders, a leading News Letter of the leather industry, have uniformly expressed, the year 2023, as an year of recession, economic slowdown and negative trends, but they were optimistic in stating the coming year would witness state of recovery. The President of COTANCE, has said Europe is one of the most important players in the international leather trade with 25% of the leather production with a turnover of nearly Euros 8 billion every year. He is of the opinion that at present, in general, a worrying situation is prevailing throughout the European tanning industry. There is a change of trend in consumers and everything other than food, leisure and tourism is in a difficult situation. Moreover global instability is not helping the moment.

Indian leather and leather products sector, from the second half of 2022 till date continues to show slow and negative economic trend due to widespread generalised inflation, decline in consumption and international geopolitical tension that continue to push customers and consumers to choose alternative products with lesser cost than leather, opines Shri Taj Alam, Vice President, U P Leather Industries Association.

Demand for leather and leather products may be hit as global consumers seek more sustainable and cruelty free options. Leather industry should actively address this challenge by emphasizing the sustainability of leather compared to alternatives. Alternative products may be promoted for their eco-friendly credentials, but, leather when responsibly sourced and produced, stands as a natural and long lasting choice.

## **Tamil Nadu to Set Up Footwear Manufacturing Facility At An Outlay Of Rs 400 Cr in Perambalur**

*JR One Footwear Pvt Ltd is a joint venture between Phoenix Kothari Footwear Ltd and Shoetown Footwear Company. The company would manufacture the Crocs brand range of footwear at the facility.*

The project is expected to generate 20,000 new jobs in Ranipet district, Mr. Stalin made those comments after virtually inaugurating a footwear manufacturing facility set up at an investment of Rs 400 crore by JR One Footwear Pvt Ltd at Eraiyur in Perambalur district, about 250 km south of Chennai, on 28 November 2023..

JR One Footwear Pvt Ltd is a joint venture between Phoenix Kothari Footwear Ltd and Shoetown Footwear Company. The company would manufacture the Crocs brand range of footwear at the facility.

Observing that the government has implemented several projects in the leather and footwear industries during the last two years, he said following the release of a footwear and leather products policy in 2022, there have been developmental changes in these sectors.

"By witnessing such growth, it gives me the confidence to say that the day is not far in achieving the USD 1 trillion economy by 2030."

Tamil Nadu should further strengthen its position in the leather and footwear sectors. "The government is taking several initiatives in its push to garner investments in this sector. In Panapakkam, Ranipet district, it has been planned to set up a footwear manufacturing park spread across 250 acres at an investment of Rs 400 crore. This will generate 20,000 jobs," he said.



Through public-private partnerships, Stalin said the government also planned to set up industrial parks on 50-acre land for the leather and footwear industries in Tamil Nadu.

On the inauguration of a new facility, Stalin said it showcased the benefits of the government's efforts to attract investments in backward districts. Through the factory in Eraiyur, 20,000 jobs will be created benefitting the people in Perambalur and neighbouring districts, particularly women, he said.

Stalin had laid the foundation stone for the facility in November 2022. Phoenix Kothari Footwear Ltd is promoted by Kothari Industrial Corporation Ltd and Taiwan-based Evervan Group.

"The factory has been built in a record time of one year. This stands as a testament to the dedication and efficiency of the Phoenix Kothari Footwear Team and its commitment," company Chairman J Rafiq Ahmed said in a statement.

While the company would invest Rs 400 crore in the first phase, the government said, the company would scale it up to Rs 2,440 crore by 2028 and would generate new jobs for 29,500 people.

Guidance Tamil Nadu, the nodal agency set up by the government to promote investments in the State, signed a memorandum of understanding with Phoenix Kothari Footwear in August 2022.

The Perambalur Footwear cluster is expected to provide significant job opportunities for women. This is also expected to give a big push to the social development goals of the state, Ahmed added.

*Source : PTI*

## **SOLIDARIDAD SUPPORTS GOING GREEN IN TAMIL NADU**

Solidaridad in support of the European Union Switch-Asia project on 'Promoting Circularity in the Tamil Nadu Leather Clusters for Solid Waste Management' demonstrating various initiatives for promoting sustainability in leather sector through plantations, scaling-up of leather waste-management capabilities and technologies and showcasing the Circular Economy-based Models at international forums of EU-SWITCH Asia Annual Meet in Jakarta.

Solidaridad, in collaboration with the Ranipet Tannery Effluent Treatment Company (Ranitec), organized a tree-planting event in late October, in Ranipet district, Tamil Nadu. The event was graced by Tmt. S Valarmathi, I.A.S., District Collector, Ranipet, Ms. Eleonora Avagliano, Monitoring & Evaluation Expert, European Union, officials of the State Pollution Control Board and the Forest Department. The other dignitaries present from Ranitec were Mr. Ramesh Prasad, Chairman, Ranitec, Mr. Zafarullah, Managing Director, Ranitec and Board of Directors, Ranitec. At the event, 660 saplings of indigenous varieties were planted to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from tanneries and to foster community health and well-being. Trees will be geo-tagged by the Forest Department in order to monitor their growth.



## **SCALING UP LEATHER WASTE-MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES AND TECHNOLOGIES**

A Pyrolysis machine was introduced at Pallavaram Tanners Industrial Effluent Company Ltd. (PTIET), Tamil Nadu. It was inaugurated by Ms. Eleonora Avagliano, Monitoring & Evaluation Expert, European Union, Mr. A.R. Senthil Kumar, Chairman, PTIET, Mr. Mohamed Nazeeb, Managing Director, PTIET and Board of Directors, PTIET. The pyrolysis machine converts tannery solid wastes into biochar for enriching the soil, and capturing carbon and chrome. The carbon-rich biochar enhances plant growth, improves soil water-retention and water-holding capacity. This eco-friendly initiative reduces the overall environmental impacts from solid waste, and has been appreciated by tanneries in the region.



## **Solidaridad Showcases Circular Economy-based Models at EU-SWITCH Asia Annual Meet in Jakarta**

Solidaridad took part in the 5th European Union-SWITCH Asia Annual Conference and Programme Steering Committee Meeting organized by the Policy Support Component on 9-10 October 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The event served as an international platform



for showcasing the EU Switch Asia Tamil Nadu project on 'Promoting Circularity in the Tamil Nadu Leather Clusters for Solid Waste Management' with the purpose of highlighting their outcomes on circular market-based models for processed solid leather waste. The conference brought together 140 representatives (both offline and online) from ongoing grant-funded projects in Asia, Central Asia, Mongolia and China, government officials from the 42 eligible countries, and a few select regional organizations, partners, and experts specializing in sustainable consumption and production (SCP) across sectors. An exhibition showing value-added sustainable products from leather waste was well appreciated.



**TATA INTERNATIONAL**



## **42<sup>ND</sup> IITF 2023 BREAKS RECORDS AND SETS NEW STANDARDS**

- Recorded footfalls of over one million visitors
- Generated more than Rs 1500 crore business - 57.9% up from last year



The 42<sup>nd</sup> edition of the India International Trade Fair, organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), at the Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, from 14-27 November, 2023. This year's culmination was nothing short of being extraordinary, as the trade fair not only surpassed previous milestones but also introduced groundbreaking initiatives that marked a paradigm shift in the landscape of international trade exhibitions. IITF 2023 saw the use of technology and digital transaction all over. As the fair embraced the future, the implementation of 5G network connectivity showcased a commitment to cutting edge technology, ensuring seamless digital experience for all attendees.

With nearly 3500 exhibitors from both India and abroad, the fair occupied an expansive 1,10,000 sq mtrs. Bihar and Kerala were the partner states for this event, while Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh took the spotlight as the focus states. A total of 25 states and Union Territories have actively taken part in the exhibition. Representatives from 13 overseas countries viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Oman, Egypt, Nepal, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, Tunisia, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Iran and UAE have participated in the IITF 2023.



Smt Anupriya Patel, Minister of State, Commerce & Industry inaugurated the event. In her address, she commended ITPO and all other stakeholders for providing an ideal platform to the industry, especially to start-ups, women entrepreneurs and rural artisans. She further said India is on track to become the third largest economy in the world. The theme of this year's edition is in line with the overarching theme of G20 "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam-United by Trade" Earlier, Shri Pradeep Singh Kharola, Chairman & Managing Director, ITPO, delivered the welcome address.

This year's culmination was nothing short of being extraordinary, as the trade fair not only surpassed previous milestones, but also introduced groundbreaking initiatives that marked a paradigm shift in the landscape of international trade exhibitions. The whole spirit behind planning and organising the fair was to improve "Visitor Experience"



ITPO awarded Odisha with a gold medal, Assam with Silver and Rajasthan with bronze in the "best state" category. Madhya Pradesh won gold medal. Thailand got Silver and the Bronze medal was presented to Turkey.

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## **GG Organics Announces Rebranding of SUSTAN to ZENTAN**

GG Organics, a pioneering leader in the leather industry specializing in advanced and sustainable chemical solutions for leather processing, proudly announces the rebranding of its recently launched bio-based chemical range. The brand, formerly known as **SUSTAN**, will now be officially recognized as **ZENTAN**.

The transition from SUSTAN to ZENTAN is a strategic move aimed at ensuring clarity, uniqueness and continued commitment to delivering eco-friendly solutions to our valued customers. The brand continues to provide the same high-quality, bio-based chemicals that empower the leather industry to embrace sustainability without compromising the quality and performance of leather.

The rebranding is not just a change in name; it symbolizes a renewed focus on providing exceptional products that contribute positively to both industry and the environment. ZENTAN represents our dedication to innovative, non-hazardous and environmentally sustainable alternative to traditional products based on Petrochemicals.

### **Key Features of ZENTAN:**

- ZENTAN comprises a range of eco-friendly chemicals derived from sustainable and natural sources, ensuring minimal environmental impact.
- It significantly reduces dependence on fossil fuel-based chemicals, greenhouse gas emissions and product toxicity, contributing to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly leather production.
- ZENTAN also contributes to the global effort to combat climate change.
- The ZENTAN product range is derived from industrial by-products such as animal and vegetable biomasses, thereby supporting a circular economy and promoting responsible waste management.

For any enquiries or further information on ZENTAN,

Please contact:

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## **International Leather & Shoe Fairs January 2024 - March 2024**

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Pakistan Mega Leather Show	: 26-18 January 2024 Lahore International Expo Centre Pakistan <a href="http://www.megaleathershow.pak">www.megaleathershow.pak</a>
37th India International Leather Fair	: 1-3 February 2024 Chennai Trade Centre Nandambakkam, Chennai, India. <a href="http://www.indiatradefair/iilf">www.indiatradefair/iilf</a>
Micam Milano International Shoe Fair	: 18-21 February 2024 Fieramilano (Rho) Milan, Italy <a href="mailto:info@micam.it">info@micam.it</a>
Euro Shoes Premiere Collection International Footwear Exhibition	: 19-22 February 2024 Expo Centre Fair Ground Moscow, Russia
Lineapelle International Exhibition of Leather, Accessories, Components Synthetics Fair	: 20-22 February 2024 Fieramilano (Rho) Milan, Italy <a href="http://www.lineapelle.fair-it">www.lineapelle.fair-it</a>
Aymod International Shoe Fashion Fair	: 28 Feb - 02 March 2024 Istanbul Fuar Merkezi Istanbul, Turkey <a href="mailto:info@aymod.com">info@aymod.com</a>
Fimec 2024 International Leather, Chemical Products, Components, Machinery & Equipment Footwear Fair	: 12-14 March 2024 Fenac, Novo Hamburgo / RS Brazil

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Leather, Components &  
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## DIFLEX 2023 kicks off in Dubai

***Global leather focus on MENA to ride on an expected 6-8% retail spending surge***

Footwear and leather goods exporters have assessed that the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region offers a robust growth opportunity for the trade with retail spending power estimated to be surging in the range of 6-8 per cent CAGR across the region with the UAE and Saudi Arabia leading the trend.

Speaking at a press conference on the opening day of the region's largest footwear and leather goods show, DIFLEX 2023, senior officials representing some of the global leather hubs – Egypt, India and Turkey, said the growth potential of MENA is amplified in the light of the data by Statista that non-food retail sales in the GCC alone is estimated to reach over US\$ 150bn by 2026.



**DIFLEX 2023 press conference**



## **Significant demographic dividend**

“MENA markets offer sunrise opportunities to leather producers and manufacturers with a rising population-5 per cent under the age of 30-offering a significant demographic dividend to both domestic and export businesses. Coupled with this is the increasing e-commerce spends and new fintech solutions like Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) reshaping the consumer behaviour and making consumption and access to goods easier than before,” asserted Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, Council for Leather Exports, a Government of India statutory trade body under the Ministry of Commerce and Trade.

India, which is the second largest exporter of leather garments and fourth largest in leather goods globally had clocked US\$ 5.2bn in 2022-23 fiscal. Over 60 top Indian footwear and leather goods manufacturers took part in the three-day DIFLEX 2023, 11 to 13 December at the Festival Arena in Dubai Festival City.

## **The CEPA effect**

The UAE is a major driving force in enhancing trade with ramifications across the region with the country signing Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with various countries enabling tariff-free access of goods including for footwear and leather goods.

“Being a major trading and re-export hub in the region, CEPAs catalyze trade in general and with concomitant value chain impact across MENA. For leather producers, this translates to ease of entry particularly in the wake of the rising trend of non-tariff trade barriers in western export destinations,” noted Leekha citing the new EU regulation on Forest Degradation Free supply chain that will add to the compliance costs of exporters.

“DIFLEX 2023 is a unique vantage point for growth for footwear and leather good exporters and as it is being held in a regional growth context, it is an opportunity to foster partnerships and forge new market entry strategies into MENA while e-commerce and consumer spending scaling new heights,” observed Jeen Joshua, Managing Director, Verifair, organisers of the event.

Over 250 top notch footwear, leather and leather accessories producers from across the world participated at this one-of-its-kind event, showcasing over 10,000 product lines. Manufacturers and Producers at DIFLEX were from the leading footwear and leather producing hubs of Turkey, Egypt, India, Sri Lanka, China and the UAE. Turkey, India and Egypt also have official country pavilions at the show.

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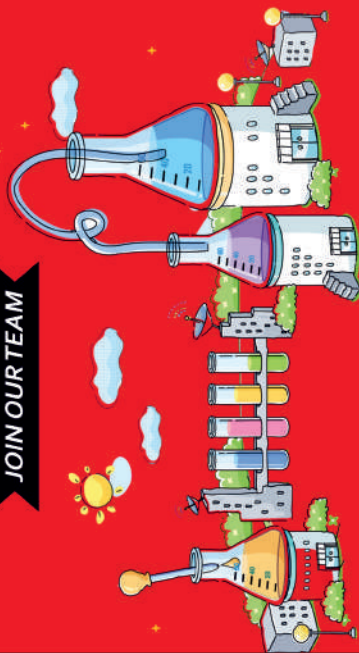
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## **SHOETECH-KANPUR (2023) CONCLUDES WITH POSITIVE RESULTS**

The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of Kanpur Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) branded as **SHOETECH-KANPUR** organized by the Indian Footwear Components Manufacturers Association (IFCOMA) on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> December'2023 at the CLE Multipurpose Hall, KLC Complex, Banthar, Unnao, with the strong support of Council for Leather Exports, Kanpur Leather Complex & Agra Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Chamber, Footwear design and development Institute, CFTI, KLC and other institutions, received stupendous response from the industry.

There were more than 75 Exhibitors, mainly from Kanpur, Agra, Noida, Delhi, Gurgaon, Chennai, Bengaluru, Ludhiana and other places, presented various Footwear components, accessories, equipments and machinery which included specialized Finished leather, Buff leather, Soles (TPR/TPU/PU etc.) of the latest design, PU, Semi-PU, PVC, Machinery, Adhesive, Varnishes, Release Agents, Water based adhesives, Plastic shoe lasts, Insoles, toe-puff & Counters, Shank Boards, Technical textiles, Linings & Interlinings, Laminated fabric, EVA & PU foam, Moulded Socks, Comfort foam Insole, Heel grip, Non-woven fabrics, Velcro tapes, Shoe finishing Chemicals, Buckles, Metal fittings, Industrial Sewing Threads, Finishes & Chemicals, Packaging Boxes, Synthetic leather, fur, labels, Moulded counters, Shoe Machinery, Spares for Machinery, Knitted fabrics, Fusible Interlinings, etc.

Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Chairman, Superhouse inaugurated the event in the august presence of Guest of Honours and other dignitaries, Dr Anil Ranga, General Manager Ordnance Equipment Factory, Shri Javed Iqbal, Regional Chairman, Central Region, CLE, Shri Sheikh Mohd Shahid, Shri Rakesh Suri Convener – Safety Footwear Panel CLE. Smt. Pallavi Dubey, Regional Director and others. Leading component manufacturers were present during the ceremony. Shri Sanjay Gupta President IFCOMA, delivered the welcome address.







The Chief Guest, in his address, applauding the efforts of IFCOMA for bringing the industry together under one roof and help the manufacturers & exporters Manufacturers to see the key developments in the components sector. He stressed on the bonding between the Footwear & Components Sector in order to minimize the imports and allow growth for the local Industry.

Dr Anil Ranga, GM, Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur expressed his happiness to be part of the Show, and emphasized that Ordnance factory needs the partnership with private players to build the production strength including the footwear.

As per the tradition, IFCOMA recognized and facilitated the special talent and achiever of the Industry. The Doyen of the Industry Sheikh Mohd Shahid was honoured with **Life time Achievement Award** (Leathers). Another stalwart of the Industry Shri GK Dhupar was felicitated with **Life time Achievement Award** (Components)

**IFCOMA Excellence Award** was presented to M/s LR Moulds Pvt Ltd. Mr Alok Lohia received the Award from the Chief Guest Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Chairman Superhouse Group.

**Women Entrepreneur Award** - IFCOMA introduced the award for the women entrepreneur. Ms Sakshi Bajaj, M/s Silver Rose Impex Pvt Ltd, Noida was presented with Women Entrepreneur Award.

**Young Entrepreneur Award** – IFCOMA Young Entrepreneur award was presented to Shri Abhishek Gupta, M/s Shreeji Polyfab Pvt Ltd., Noida. The inauguration function ended with vote of thanks presented by Shri Pradeep Agarwal former President of IFCOMA proposed the vote of thanks.

The two-day event fair was very well received and created a good platform for the footwear components manufacturers to showcase their latest innovative products, and the manufacturers of footwear were able to interact with them on the latest developments and current trends in both the footwear and component industry.

Over 2000 people from the trade and industry, mainly from Kanpur and other regions, such as Jajmau, Banthar, Unnao, Dada Nagar, Fazal Ganj visited the fair.

## **ECHA identifies risks from PVC additives and microparticle releases**

The European Chemicals Agency's (ECHA) investigation found that some substances added to polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic, like plasticisers, may pose risks to people and the environment. To limit the use of these additives and to minimise releases of PVC microparticles, regulatory action would be necessary.

ECHA collected, as requested by the European Commission, information on the potential risks of PVC additives and PVC itself to human health and the environment. It also considered possible alternatives and assessed the societal impacts of potential risk management measures.

The investigation focused on 63 PVC additives, including plasticisers, heat stabilisers and flame retardants. The key findings suggest that regulatory action would be needed:

- to minimise risks associated with plasticisers, particularly ortho-phthalates, which are generally harmful to reproduction;
- to minimise risks from heat stabilising organotin, such as DOTE, which may cause developmental malformations and reproductive harm;
- to reduce emissions of flame retardants as suggested in ECHA's Regulatory Strategy for Flame Retardants; and
- to implement and improve technologies that minimise PVC microparticle emissions especially at recycling facilities and landfills. The release of PVC microparticles contributes to plastic pollution. These microparticles also contain harmful additives, and therefore, minimising their releases would consequently reduce emissions of these additives.



The risks from PVC resin to workers and the environment are considered adequately controlled with the current operational conditions and companies' safety measures. This conclusion followed an analysis of the materials used in making PVC resin, the production process, waste disposal and exposure to PVC dust.

ECHA's investigation has now been sent to the European Commission, which will assess it and decide whether there is a need to formally ask ECHA to prepare a REACH restriction proposal.

#### **Further information**

- Investigation report and its appendices
- European Commission's request to ECHA

*The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is an Agency of the European Union implementing EU chemical regulations. We, together with our partners, work for the safe use of chemicals.*  
<http://echa.europa.eu/>

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## **Zschimmer & Schwarz signed the UN Pact for Human Rights and a Sustainable World**

**Zschimmer & Schwarz joined the United Nations Global Compact.**

German leather and textile chemicals company Zschimmer & Schwarz has joined the United Nations Global Compact. The objective is to defend human rights and a socially responsible, sustainable and environmentally friendly globalization. The company highlights that this marks its commitment to “shaping the future by focusing on sustainability and responsibility to society.”

The United Nations Global Compact is the world's largest initiative for sustainable and responsible corporate governance. For this reason, the company pointed out that by joining the initiative, “the participating companies and organizations commit to integrating the ten binding principles in the areas of human rights, labor rights, environmental protection and anti-corruption in our corporate strategies and implementing them in our economic activity. daily. The participants also support the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) postulated by the United Nations.”



**Dietmar Clausen, Chief Financial Officer of Zschimmer & Schwarz.**

Zschimmer & Schwarz recalled that they have “a long tradition of business commitment and

sustainability since our founding in 1894. Our participation in the Global Compact is further testimony to these principles.”

Dietmar Clausen, Chief Financial Officer of Zschimmer & Schwarz, highlighted: “We are a global player with global responsibility. Our corporate values require us to guarantee a livable future for future generations,” he explains. “By joining the United Nations Global Compact, we want to emphasize our commitment to sustainable corporate governance.”

For his part, Martin Haberl, General Director of Sales and Marketing at Zschimmer & Schwarz, pointed out that the company's participation in the Global Compact means an unwavering commitment. “The name Zschimmer & Schwarz has been synonymous with trust, tradition, innovation and respect since the company was founded. Our promise is to contribute to environmentally and socially responsible globalization.”

Wolfgang Nowak, General Director of Operations of the business group, recalled that “the numerous projects that have been carried out since the founding of the company are testimony to our social commitment and sustainable action. The shareholder family philanthropy program, which began in 2019 to mark the company's 125th anniversary, is an impressive example. The initiative will enter its second round in January 2022 and will continue thereafter. Since the launch of the program, 14 social projects have been supported with a total funding of around 200,000 euros.

Zschimmer & Schwarz / CueroAmérica

*source: CueroAmérica: [contacto@cueroamerica.com](mailto:contacto@cueroamerica.com)*



## **Leading sustainability performance for Royal Smit & Zoon awarded with EcoVadis Platinum rating**

Aukje Berden, ESG Director Royal Smit & Zoon in a statement has said “We are proud to announce that Royal Smit & Zoon has been awarded with the EcoVadis Platinum rating, placing it to the top 1% of 75.000 organizations assessed globally. The Platinum rating, up 15 points from 2022, reflects our 202-year dedication to sustainability and is an improvement from the company’s Gold rating in 2022 and 2021.



**Aukje Berden, ESG Director  
Royal Smit & Zoon**

“It also demonstrates our ongoing efforts true to our mission to create a socially and environmentally sustainable leather value chain, together. We are really proud to achieve our first Platinum rating. Doing EcoVadis’ rigorous assessment for more than 5 years already, demonstrates clearly how committed we are to ongoing improvements. While the journey to this score is not easy, it is also an encouragement to continue our efforts hand in hand with all our stakeholders. Our goal is to maintain this EcoVadis Platinum rating, while considering it as a journey and continuously keep on moving forward with our ESG ambitions. In the spirit of our mission, we want to continue to raise the bar in terms of sustainability, while collaborating for a future-proof leather industry.”

## Four impact themes

EcoVadis is a globally recognized methodology that assesses the sustainability performance of more than 75,000 organisations across a range of criteria grouped into four impact themes: “Environment”, “Labor & Human Rights”, “Ethics” and “Sustainable Procurement”. These evidence-based assessments are refined into easy-to-read scorecards, providing zero to one hundred (0-100) scores and medals (bronze, silver, gold, platinum). Our company scored particularly high in the areas of Environment, Labor practices and Ethics. Sustainable procurement is a key focus area for Royal Smit & Zoon as it raises the bar across the whole supply chain and delivers further assurance to customers and stakeholders that their expectations are being met by everyone.

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## INDIAN LEATHER

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## **APLF Leather, Fashion Access and Materials+**

A widespread belief in China and other Southeast Asian countries is to see the dragon as a symbol of authority, prosperity and good luck. For that area of the world, on February 6, 2024, the 'Year of the Rabbit' will transform into the Year of the Wood Dragon, and is believed to be a time to renew and establish foundations that pave the way for long-term achievements. .

Specifically, the year 2024 of the Wood Dragon combines the characteristics of the dragon with the nourishing element of Wood. And many hope that this combination will generate growth, progress and abundance. It is considered an ideal period to start anew and lay the foundation for lasting success.

But do traditional economic forecasts complement the positive aspects of the Year of the Dragon?

### **Macroeconomics**

As the Gregorian calendar approaches the culmination of 2023 and prepares to welcome 2024, what tools can be used to forecast the business and economic outlook for the coming year?

Economic forecasts do not use a crystal ball but rather a set of statistics and surveys to create a picture of how the economy will perform in the medium and long term. Obviously, unforeseen events can dramatically alter the best-established predictions, but using the key statistics available, such as the Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index, Consumer Confidence, Retail Sales and GDP growth, **APLF** published its conclusions in the recent document and offers this data on the best markets. **Hong Kong. APLF 2024, from March 19 to 21 In 2024, the following events are planned:** offer direct access to the most important Asian markets for the sectors of footwear manufacturing, leather goods, clothing, materials, components and leather goods throughout the year. **APLF** And precisely, the group of fairs Both macroeconomic statistics - and the popular belief that the Chinese zodiac positively influences economic

prospects - in the Southeast Asian region are cause for optimism and creative efforts for 2024. **Looking to the future**

The conclusion from this data is that, by 2024, Asia will surpass the United States and Europe in economic and demand terms and this includes the need for manufacturing materials and consumer goods. However, taking into account the popular saying that "if you ask a dozen economists to solve the same problem, you will receive a dozen different solutions", this would seem to indicate that economic forecasting is closer to being an 'art', than a science.

Now in the 40th Anniversary of its founding, **APLF** is the only global event for the international leather industry. **APLF Leather** attracts tanneries from the main leather-producing countries, as well as suppliers of machinery and chemical products, so that the entire supply chain of the global leather industry is converging there.

It is a must-see event, a meeting point for companies dedicated to the export and import of the sector.



**Hong Kong – Fashion Access. March 19-21, 2024**, at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Held simultaneously with **APLF Leather**, **Fashion Access** is the leading business platform for Asia for fashion accessories, such as all types of bags, travel items, footwear, garments and accessories. OEMs offer their manufacturing services to wholesale buyers of

department stores, boutiques, and importers/distributors. **Fashion Access** is a great opportunity to see the styles and trends of the upcoming fashion seasons.



**Hong Kong – Materials+, March 19-21, 2024** en the Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Center.

**Materials+** is another element of the 3-in-1 format that consolidates the **APLF**. At this fair, manufacturers and designers will be able to find all types of materials and components used in the production of footwear, bags and clothing. Innovative materials and technologies can be seen and, as such, can serve as inspiration for designers looking for new ideas for future collections.



For more details: [www.aplf.com](http://www.aplf.com) or write to [info@aplf.com](mailto:info@aplf.com)

## **ASSOMAC: AGOSTINO APOLITO NEW GENERAL MANAGER**

From January 2024, Agostino Apolito will be the General Manager of Assomac. He comes from Confindustria Firenze where he worked until 2022, becoming Deputy Director in 2016. During his professional career he has been involved in guidance, assistance and support to companies on finance and business law, governance, internationalisation, innovation, investment policies and aggregation strategies.



**Agostino Apolito**

Agostino Apolito's long experience in the confederation of industry allows him to define his commitment to Assomac in line with the presidency's strategic indications. This commitment translates into supporting the presidency in defining and pursuing strategic objectives, understanding growth and innovation dynamics, analysing skills and technology needs, and supporting the interests of member companies with development projects and strategies.

The key points of his next job as General Manager of Assomac will be the promotion of technologies and their communication, especially with a view to collaboration with the associations of the leather industry; the development of sector policies to aggregate and enhance the heritage of skills, professionalism and historicity of member companies; making “Made with Italian Technology” a guarantee of high quality standards and sustainability in its most tangible and real sense; training with the development of new partnerships with technical high school and a renewal process of the Simac Tanning Tech exhibition.

With his professional experience, Agostino Apolito represents a guarantee in relations with Assomac's institutional stakeholders and member companies.

The association thanks Roberto Vago for his valuable contribution and work over the years and for the value he has brought in terms of technical expertise and professionalism.

## Fimec 2024 will be the biggest edition in recent years

With around 14 thousand m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition area, the fair will bring together the leather and footwear sector in March



The largest leather-footwear fair in Latin America will bring together the sector from March 12 to 14, 2024, at Fenac, in Novo Hamburgo/RS (Brazil). With the theme “Innovation, Technology and Positive Impact on the World”, the **47th Fimec (International Leather, Chemical Products, Components, Machinery and Equipment Fair) Footwear and Tanneries** will present news and promote business between all sectors of the cluster. Recognized as the only one that has everything for the sector, Fimec will bring together launches from production to logistics, including leather and skins, chemicals, components, machines, technology and innovation.

According to Marcio Jung, CEO of Fenac, this Fimec is projected to be a standout edition. “Fimec 2024 is already proving to be the largest fair in the last 10 years in terms of exhibition area, reaching practically 14 thousand m<sup>2</sup>, meaning we will have even more



exhibitors and more news next year”, he emphasizes. “This is an international event that is an important driver of business for the cluster, contributing to economic development that goes far beyond the region and the state, impacting the whole of Brazil and different countries”, assesses Jung. Visitors from more than 30 countries and 25 Brazilian states are expected at this fair.

Accreditation for Fimec 2024 is now open and is free for professionals in the sector, through the website [www.fimec.com.br](http://www.fimec.com.br), with access to children under 14 years of age prohibited. Held by Fenac Experiences Conectam, the fair is presented by Sicredi Pioneira, is sponsored by Covestro and Transduarte and has the support of sectoral entities: Abicalçados, Abiacav, Abqtic, Abrameq, ACI-NH/CB/EV, Aicsul, Assintecal, CICB, Fiergs, IBTeC, Sebrae/RS and SITERGS.

### **Attractions offer knowledge and experiences**

Visitors to Fimec 2024 will find much more than just new exhibits at the Fenac pavilions. Traditionally, the fair has spaces for knowledge and experiences so that the sector can update itself, consume content and be aware of market changes. “**The** objective of Fenac is to provide the appropriate environment for business to occur during Fimec, seeking to bring qualified visitors and offering attractions for professionals and companies in the sector leather-footwear manufacturer grow and transform with each edition”, highlights Jung.

Following the success of last year, the **CICB Sustainability Forum** will take place again during the fair, on March 13, 2024. Held by the Brazilian Leather project (an initiative of the Brazilian Tanning Industry Center - CICB - and the Brazilian Export and Investment Promotion Agency - ApexBrasil), the activity will present ideas, directions and innovations for the leather chain from market experts . **Fábrica Conceito**, in turn, will present the reality of the industries, with production lines set up inside the Fenac pavilions, where shoes from partner brands are produced in real time. This way, visitors can visualize the applicability of the innovations presented and the technology of the machines on display at Fimec.

**"Veritas", the trend book for the Spring-Summer 2025 season, looks at a world where each individual defends "their" truth. Gone are the days of tribal fashion... To be discovered at the Parc des Expositions, Porte de Versailles, from 5 to 7 February 2024.**

After exploring a world where the senses are once again at the centre, Louis Gérin and Grégory Lamaud, the artistic directors of *Texworld Evolution Paris*, offer a more personal interpretation of this future humanity. Our wardrobes reflect our individual levels of commitment to the "truth". Faced with the modern paradox of growth versus sustainability, each of us expresses our own vision of the world. These points of view are reflected in the four themes of this new trend book.

### **Creative themes imagined with AI**

Based on the analysis of emerging signals detected in the artistic, economic and social fields, these approaches incorporate elements of artificial intelligence for the first time. The artistic directors have incorporated them - by identifying them - into the 'pattern design' boards that bring together the colours and silhouettes used for each creative universe.

**#1 Belief.** This theme, which isn't very assertive and is rather introverted, expresses itself with elegance and discretion. The colour temperatures remain calm, in the background. The colour universe is

oriented towards more "conservative", mineral shades, dominated by green and blue. The textures express matter and vibrations.

**#2 Immanence.** While this proposal remains conservative and mystical, it is more visible than the previous one. It expresses a more talkative "bohemian- chic" universe, asserting its point of view through a relatively cynical approach: "these are the new rules of our common life. You have to live with them". The colour range is expressive and warmer, but remains fairly classic. It is expressed more in knitwear or embroidery, materials with relief or a frosted appearance.

**#3 Knowledge.** This is all about affirming yourself. This theme, which also draws on classic sources of inspiration - nature, plants, flowers - sets out to transform them radically. The colours are strong, contrasting, in opposition, and are applied to materials that express the future, with crumpled, liquid or transparent textures.

**#4 Experience.** This is the most committed theme in the field of subjective truths. "Trust only yourself. [...] Don't believe. Test [...] trust no one. Learn from your own experience". The colours are very bold: we wear them to attract attention. Acidic, sweet shades are king, as are materials that evoke urban or sporty codes: rips, shiny aspects, organic (second-skin type), but also lace and transparency.

All these worlds will be showcased in two *Trend Forums*: one at *Texworld Paris* for fabrics, the other at *Apparel Sourcing Paris* for finished products (a new feature in February 2024). Visitors will be able to discover looks inspired by the fabrics and products selected by the show's art directors. There will also be new areas with samples to illustrate each of these themes: *Highlights Texworld*, *Highlight Apparel Sourcing*, *Highlights Elite* and *Highlights Denim*.

Website:

<https://texworld-paris.fr.messefrankfurt.com/paris/en.html>

## Yegammai Chidambaram passed away



Smt. Yegammai Chidambaram, daughter of Legendary Leather King-Padma Shri A Nagappa Chettiar and the Chairperson of Nagappan Foundation, wife of Shri A Chidambaram passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023 in Chennai. She was 71.

Yegammai took strenuous efforts along with her husband Shri A Chidambaram, with the support of her sons, Shri Chella Nagappan and Shri Uma Maheshwaran, in bringing out a book on her legendary father, on his birth centenary year 2015, titled, “**Legendary Leather King - Padma Shri A Nagappa Chjettiar - Inspiring Legacy of his success in management, public and personal life**”, which highlights history of his life and valuable contributions to the leather industry, especially for the development of leather exports and in earning precious foreign exchange.

**Nagappan Entrepreneur Award** instituted by Nagappan Foundation is presented every year during the LERIG event organised by CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute. Smt. Yegammai used to participate actively in all the events.

*Indian Leather* offers its deepest condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

## **COTANCE SECRETARY-GENERAL AT IAFLI2023 CONGRESS IN IZMIR: NAVIGATING NEW HORIZONS FOR THE LEATHER INDUSTRY**

In Izmir, Turkiye, COTANCE Secretary-General, Gustavo Gonzalez-Quijano gave the keynote speech at the opening of the 7th IAFLI Congress on Innovation Aspects for Leather Industry, updating the audience with the challenges and opportunities that the EU

legislative initiatives will bring to European leather producers and those in other countries selling leather and leather products on the EU market. The Congress has drawn participants from various countries, including Turkey, Romania, the Czech Republic, Spain, the Netherlands, India, Bangladesh, and Uzbekistan, making it a melting pot of ideas and inspiration.



*"The IAFLI Congress reaches audiences in need of relevant regulatory information and technical knowledge for the sustainable development of the leather industry in their countries", said COTANCE Secretary-General*



**In the picture Mr Gustavo Gonzalez-Quijano with Prof Dr Candaz Adigüzel Zengin, EGE University, Izmir, (left) and Prof Eshbaeva Ulbosin Jamalovna, Namangan Institute of Engineering and Technology, Uzbekistan, (right).**



A standout at the IAFLI 2023 Congress was a project led by Prof. Dr. Arife Candaş Adıgüzel Zengin, Ege University, Izmir, and Prof. Eshbaeva Ulbosin Jamalovna, Namangan Institute of Engineering and Technology, Uzbekistan, focusing on the use of leather waste in high-quality paper production. These types of initiatives are crucial for promoting the circularity of leather.



At the end of the Congress session, Mr. Gustavo Gonzalez-Quijano was honoured by Prof. Dr. Bahri Basaran and the organizing committee for his commitment to advancing the leather industry.

COTANCE Secretary-General also gave an interview to Magazine Leather to discuss leather's unique characteristics and its superior performance over 'vegan leathers'. The conversation also covered deforestation issues and how COTANCE is equipping the leather industry with knowledge and innovation.

The Congress showcased that the journey towards a sustainable and innovative future for the leather industry is well underway, bolstered by the knowledge, collaboration, and enthusiasm witnessed at IAFLI2023.



Confédération Européenne de l'Industrie de la Chaussure  
European Confederation of the Footwear Industry

## **The president of FICE and vice-president of the Pikolinos Group becomes the first woman to chair the European Footwear Confederation**

On the General Assembly of the European Footwear Confederation (CEC) held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December in Elche (Spain), Rosana Perán, president of the Federation of Spanish Footwear Industries (FICE) and vice-presidency of the Pikolinos Group, was elected President of the European Footwear Confederation for the next two years. She has thus become the first woman to head it, succeeding the Portuguese Luis Onofre, president of the Portuguese Footwear Association (APICCAPS). In addition to the Members of the CEC, the public part of the General Assembly was attended by the President of the Valencian Region, the regional Minister of Innovation, Industry, Commerce and Tourism, the Majors of Elche and Elda and other public authorities, presidents of other related industries association and Spanish footwear companies.



In 2022, the EU footwear industry represents around 20,000 footwear companies across the continent, employing some 250,000 people. CEC's main objectives are to improve the competitiveness and growth of European footwear companies, promoting their interests and values. For that purpose, contribute to the development of the skills needed by the sector and encourage the transition to sustainability and digitisation.

During her intervention, she pointed that her main challenge will be to promote Industry 5.0, a new industrial revolution based on transforming businesses from a humanist point of view. At the same time, she assured that new technologies and innovations will not replace workers, but will enable them to acquire complementary skills, helping companies guarantee their growth and the development of professional careers of talents.

Moreover, she underlined that "we also need to actively work on social sustainability in the footwear industry. This should be based on taking ethical and social aspects into account throughout the footwear production and consumption chain". She added that "this means considering not only the environmental impact, but also the working conditions, equity and well- being of the communities involved in production", all factors that are crucial for the European footwear industry today.



Under the leadership of Rosana Perán, the CEC will continue to promote the interests of European footwear companies to ensure that the European Union's initiatives help them adapt to the sustainable and digital industrial transformation. It will ensure that their voices are heard so that the EU remains an open and reliable trading partner while establishing clear and fair rules for all stakeholders. The CEC will as well continue its efforts to attract the younger generations to the sector, and working on European initiatives to improve the skills of the current and future workforce.



Finally, the new president reminded that "over the last 10 years, CEC has led 25 European projects supporting the implementation of EU policies and facilitating collaboration across Europe. From now on, I am faced with the exciting challenge of continue transforming the industry. A sector that faces many challenges, but also opportunities, and its members associations play a relevant role in preparing and mobilising companies, facilitating the exchange of information and best practices between industry members to enhance their competitiveness and efficiency."



## **CEC welcomes the deal on the Ecodesign Regulation**

On 4th December 2023, the European Parliament and the Council has reached a provisional agreement on the upcoming Ecodesign for Sustainable Product Regulation launched by the European Commission on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022. By establishing a framework for setting ecodesign requirements for the large majority of consumer products, this piece of legislation represents a cornerstone for the achievement of the EU Green Deal ambitions.

The European Footwear Confederation (CEC) welcomes the outcomes of the interinstitutional negotiations as an opportunity to boost the transition of footwear companies towards a more sustainable production, and wishes to underline the following:

### **Consumer products fit for purpose must not be destroyed**

The horizontal provision requiring large companies to disclose every year's data on discarded products is a measure with solid dissuasive potential to tackle the unjustified destruction of goods. More specifically, the ban on destruction of unsold textiles and footwear will also contribute to the objectives of the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles, namely to decreasing the production of fast fashion models anchored in our consuming patterns, and to revaluing the choice of more durable and repairable



materials. Nevertheless, as representative of a sector consisting predominantly of SMEs, the CEC cheers the exemption of micro and small companies from the ban, as well as the longer adaptation period for medium enterprises. Moreover, we believe that these provisions will eventually support the “rehabilitation” of leather, a sustainable and durable material, victim of market demonisation in the last years.

### **Ecodesign requirements aligned to product requirements**

Rethinking ecodesign criteria is a future the footwear industry is working on, with some pioneers leading the first steps, as presented in the recent CEC World Footwear Congress. While recognising a certain need for prioritisation the textile ecosystem emerged in the interinstitutional deal, the CEC keeps reminding that footwear is a complex product composed by a multitude of materials and components, assembled with different techniques, subject to specific health, ergonomic and safety standards, and requiring specific recycling models. Therefore, we reiterate the call for adequate research, time and funding in order to ensure feasible ecodesign requirements for footwear to be implemented at large scale.

In conclusion, the CEC looks forward to a timely entry into force of the Regulation and, consequently, a fruitful cooperation with the European Commission on the elaboration of the specific guidelines for footwear ecodesign that should respect both peculiarities and requirements of a shoe.

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## Asian imports soar and worry national industry

**Footwear imports from Asia account for more than 80% of the total, not counting cross border**

The dizzying increase in footwear imports from Asia, especially from Vietnam, Indonesia and China, is worrying the national footwear industry. According to data prepared by the Brazilian Association of Footwear Industries (Abicalçados), in November, footwear imports from the three Asian countries increased by 38% in revenue and 10% in volume, reaching US\$ 29.43 million and 1.44 million pairs. In the year to date, between January and November, imports of Asian footwear grew 26.6% in revenue and 11.5% in volume, totaling US\$327 million and 22 million pairs.

The executive president of Abicalçados, Haroldo Ferreira, highlights that only imports from Vietnam, Indonesia and China, the three main origins of footwear imported by Brazil, represent more than 80% of the total imports, in terms of revenue. "We are not against imports, we are against unfair competition. Asian shoes, as a rule, enter Brazil through illegal practices such as *dumping* - when the company charges a different price on the international market in order to destroy local industries - are harming the Brazilian industry.

Furthermore, there is the exemption of international e-commerce platforms (*cross border*), which since August have not paid any tax for shipments of goods worth up to US\$50. These are not even included in the indices", assesses the executive, highlighting that imports of Asian footwear, if added to those via platforms, would further increase a record that "is already frightening".

The fact, according to Ferreira, is that if nothing is done, especially with regard to the exemption of foreign platforms, which would have the most immediate effect on industrial activity, many jobs will be lost in Brazil. "The Brazilian footwear industry directly employs approximately 300 thousand people. If we add the production chain as a whole, directly and indirectly, this number exceeds 1 million

jobs. The impact of unfair import competition is already being felt by the national industry and will cause a wave of unemployment in the country”, he adds.

### **Loss of jobs**

Data prepared by Abicalçados indicate that, between January and October, the national footwear sector lost almost 2 thousand jobs, with a current job stock 6.6% lower than that recorded last year. Footwear production, also until October, fell 1.6% compared to the same period in 2022. “The tendency is to get worse, if the issue of predatory imports is not resolved, whether through conventional channels or via cross-border platforms. ”, warns the leader. Recently, Abicalçados released a survey that indicates that the sector is expected to lose 30 thousand jobs in the coming years, if the exemption for international e-commerce is maintained.

### **Total imports**

Data prepared by Abicalçados indicate that, in total, between January and November, 26.53 million pairs entered Brazil for US\$413.63 million, increases both in volume (+12.6%) and in revenue (+24.2%) compared to the same period last year. In November, imports totaled 1.87 million pairs and US\$36 million, increases of 13.5% and 26.4%, respectively, compared to the corresponding month of 2022.

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## **Footwear industry projects growth of 2.2% in 2024**

After a 1.1% drop in footwear production in 2023, to 839.3 million pairs, the national footwear industry projects growth of 2.2% next year, reaching 857.8 million pairs produced in the country. The projections were announced at the press conference of the Brazilian Footwear Show - BFSHOW, held on the morning of the 22nd, at the FIERGS Events Center, in Porto Alegre/RS. The first edition of the footwear exhibition, which brings together 138 of the main Brazilian footwear brands, takes place until the 23rd.

On this occasion, the executive president of Abicalçados, Haroldo Ferreira, started the work highlighting that, although the data is not so positive, Abicalçados is a class entity committed to facts and which publishes real numbers that guide the more than 4 thousand Brazilian footwear industries in their planning and strategies.

“Brazil is a country with great potential, but unfortunately, some competitive conditions are impaired. We have a high production cost, a slow market, both here and abroad and fierce unfair competition from international platforms, which are currently exempt from any import tax on shipments of up to US\$50”, he highlighted.

The CEO of NürnbergMesse Brasil, João Paulo Picolo, highlighted that the first edition of BFSHOW points to a promising horizon for the footwear sector. “It is our first fair in the footwear sector and we are very pleased with what we are seeing. Certainly, the union of the sector with ApexBrasil, trade associations and footwear unions will be an important boost to make BFSHOW the largest Brazilian fair in the footwear industry,” he said.

The CEO also highlighted that feedback on the first edition has been very positive, especially due to the infrastructure of the FIERGS pavilions. “Our business is based on customer satisfaction and hospitality, welcoming people with good service and comfort in the facilities,” he commented.

Official partner in holding BFSHOW, the Brazilian Export and Investment Promotion Agency (ApexBrasil) was also at the press conference, represented by its Industry and Services manager Maria Paula Velloso. On this occasion, the manager highlighted the joint effort to attract more than 150 international buyers from 30 countries, which has generated a lot of business at the event.

## **Return**

Resuming participation in footwear fairs, one of the largest footwear industries in the country, Vulcabras, was represented by its CEO, Pedro Bartelle. “Participating in this historic moment for the sector, which is having a fair held by its highest class entity, Abicalçados, is important to show the full potential of our industry and discuss the

topics relevant to our activity. We have a productive Brazil, but it lacks competitive conditions. In addition to living with high production costs, today we are suffering a lot from unfair competition from platforms. These are issues that must be debated and brought to the attention of the public authorities through Abicalçados. Events like BFSHOW allow us to bring important debates. We are very happy to be here, presenting our technologies and supporting the sector”, he commented.

Also participating in the press conference were businesspeople Sérgio Bocayuva (Usaflex), Carlos Mestriner (Klin), Ronaldo Lacerda (Lynd) and Marcelo Paludetto (Democrat), as well as Daniela Machado, Fashion Project Articulation analyst at Sebrae RS.

### **Union**

BFSHOW is a fair held by Abicalçados, organized by NürnbergMesse Brasil and sponsored by the Brazilian Micro and Small Business Support Service (Sebrae). The official partnership is with the Brazilian Export and Investment Promotion Agency (ApexBrasil). The support comes from the footwear industry unions in Rio Grande do Sul, Bahia, Paraíba, Estância Velha, Sapiranga, Birigui, Campo Bom, Dois Irmãos, Jaú, Fortaleza, Farroupilha, Parobé, Franca, Igrejinha, Nova Serrana and Novo Hamburgo. Find out more about the fair on the [website](#).

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## **Vietnam's footwear and apparel industry has passed the most difficult period and will usher in new growth next year**

According to statistics from the General Administration of Vietnam Customs, in the first 10 months of this year, clothing exports were US\$27.7 billion, a decrease of 12.9%; footwear exports were US\$16.4 billion, a decrease of 18.3%.

Due to inflation and economic recession, consumer demand in Vietnam's main export markets has declined, and Vietnam's footwear and apparel exports have declined sharply since the beginning of this year. However, the decline in exports has slowed in recent months, and exports of shoes and clothing are showing signs of recovery.

Export data for October improved from the previous month, with footwear exports rising 30.3% to \$1.7 billion. Clothing exports fell only 0.1% month-on-month to US\$2.57 billion.

At the same time, increasingly stringent sustainability standards and fierce competition from other exporting countries such as Bangladesh and Myanmar have led to a reduction in the number of orders and manufacturers have been forced to reduce production. Since July, most manufacturers have resumed production at full capacity, and the economy has recovered slightly.

Duong Thuy Linh, deputy secretary-general of the Vietnam Cotton Spinning Association (VCOSA), said that Vietnam's footwear and clothing industry has passed the most difficult moment, and market demand has increased during the year-end holidays. With the joint efforts of the government and enterprises, the export of the footwear and clothing industry will usher in a new era. growth of.

*Source: China Leather Association*



## **EXPO RIVA SCHUH & GARDABAGS PRESENTS ITS 100TH EDITION TO THE MINISTRY**

### **OF ENTERPRISE AND MADE IN ITALY IN ROME**

#### **THE SECRET OF 50 YEARS AND 100 SUCCESSFUL EDITIONS**

**Expo Riva Schuh & Gardabags – organized by Riva del Garda Fierecongressi SpA – is the leading international trade show dedicated to volume footwear, leather goods and accessories.**

It all starts with a question: how could Expo Riva Schuh & Gardabags, such a long-lasting and successful event, possibly have come to be in Riva del Garda, a small Italian town in Trentino? An event capable of attracting people from all over the world, of generating such an impressive turnover and becoming a touchstone for international trade in the footwear and, today, also the accessories market.



Over its first 100 editions, the fair has hosted roughly **70,000 footwear collections**. An underestimation, no doubt, because this assumes that at every edition, each exhibitor presented only one collection, which is known not to be the case. It has welcomed some **500 visitors** and, in the last 10 years, has convinced industry operators **from at least 100 different countries** to come to Riva del Garda, at each edition.

Today, about 80% of visitors come from Europe and a good **20% from non-European countries** (a very high number compared to other events).



The question as to how these numbers were possible was answered by the top management of Riva del Garda Fierecongressi, the organiser of Expo Riva Schuh & Gardabags, after the institutional speeches by **Maurizio Montemagno**, General Director for Industrial Policy, Innovation and SMEs of the Ministry of Enterprise and Made in Italy (MIMIT) and **Milena Del Grosso**, Consumer Goods Office Manager ITA - Italian Trade Agency.

For the Chairman, **Roberto Pellegrini**, "in 100 editions, **Expo Riva Schuh & Gardabags** has proven to be essential in preserving

**the competitiveness of Italian and European distribution channels.** While Italy is no longer a hub for mass production, we now have the opportunity to be – and remain – a leading hub for worldwide distribution: Riva del Garda is a place for international trade.”

Pellegrini then revealed the secret of the event's success: “It has always been an event **capable of interpreting changes in the market, and accommodating them.**”

Reflecting on the significant milestones of the fair over the last 50 years reveals a remarkable journey: bolstering the territorial value, fostering successful collaborations between public and private sectors, expanding into global markets and production, restructuring managerial frameworks, and nurturing strong affiliations with production and distribution networks.

He was echoed by Director **Alessandra Albarelli**: “It is our internationality, superior to all other industry events, that makes us such an important crossroads for trade: **on a global level, 2 out of every 3 pairs of shoes are bought in a country other than the one where they were made.**”

Being a successful event that promotes the Italian footwear and accessories market on a worldwide scale is also a responsibility. An event of this magnitude must strive to be sustainable in every respect, for the environment, people and the territory, as Albarelli pointed out: “Waste recycling, sustainable mobility, greener stands are just some of the initiatives implemented in favour of the **environment. Inclusivity**, which is also achieved by digitalising the various initiatives, is another crucial objective for us. Speaking of caring for people, worthy of mention is our collaboration with the Sole4Souls **Charity Program** and the initiatives of the National Consortium of Saints Crispin and Crispinian.”

Lastly, Albarelli spoke of the fair's positive impact on the Alto Garda region, generating a **total economic value of around 29 million euros**.



GianPaola Pedretti, Exhibition Manager, outlined how the **more than 1,300 brands and visitors from more than 100 nations**, who attend each January and June edition of the fair, would celebrate the 100th edition throughout 2024: "Our now customary **Innovation Village Retail** will be enhanced by a presentation of the key **consumer trends** in the new Highlights area. To mark the occasion, a special **Celebration Night** will be held, during which our most loyal stakeholders will be awarded, and a **short film, photo exhibition and monograph** will also be presented."

Even the exhibition's lifeblood – exhibitors and buyers alike – did not want to miss the presentation of the 100 editions.

**Lia Pittarello of Pittarello S.p.A., Paolo Villa of Villa Group and Bruno Conterno of Nice Footwear** all gave their views on the fair: "A must-attend event for its **international** appeal, the opportunity to **discuss important industry topics** and **preview trends** for the coming seasons. And, why not, it's also a **great location** in which to catch up with partners and customers after the fair for a drink or a bite to eat, which isn't always possible at big-city events."



## **Leather Innovations PART – III**

### **NSK SRINIVASAN<sup>1</sup> & HASMUKH SHAH<sup>2</sup>**

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***(Contd. from Nov issue)***

### **3. NEGATIVE PUBLICITY ABOUT LEATHER<sup>3</sup>**

- Incorrect and obsolete information about the leather industry continues to be published or broadcasted on television and radio, in newspapers and magazines, even in reports from reputable organisations such as World Bank or FAO.
- Such opinions fail to recognize that tanners take a waste product from the meat industry and convert it into a highly versatile and beautiful material.

#### **3.1 The negative publicity about leather can be classified into five main categories. Figure – 3A**

##### **The negative publicity about leather can be classified into five main categories.**

- Accusations linking raw hides and skins supplies with cruelty toward animals
- Accusations linking raw hides and skins supplies with deforestation (in particular rain forests)
- Following that logic, raw hides and skins production and ultimately the tanning industry is held responsible for a substantial share of carbon footprint due to greenhouse gases (GHG), especially methane generated by livestock. The recent EU decision of attributing carbon footprint load only from the slaughterhouse floor to the tannery exit gate might settle that issue.
- Applying the principle pars pro toto, a few remaining ugly spots in developing countries (those in North Africa, which in terms of production are actually irrelevant and kept mainly as tourist attractions) are constantly presented as representative of the whole industry and confirming its prevailing polluting and harmful character.

- Disregarding the fact that tanners all over the world use only “instant” powders containing harmless trivalent chromium (Cr3+) salts, chrome tanned leather and leather goods made of it are drummed as being carcinogenic due to presence of hexavalent (Cr6+) and, in the best case, only chrome-free leathers should be used.

A typical case of negative publicity is the campaign group The Friends of Earth, which, using data compiled by the consultancy group Trucost claim:

- 50.2m<sup>2</sup> of land and 14.5m<sup>3</sup> of water (or even 25m<sup>3</sup> if untreated) needed for one pair of boots
- The largest factor in the land footprint for a pair of boots is from cattle farming (86%)
- Workers in tanneries there are exposed to dangerous chemicals (true), including hexavalent chromium (untrue), a known carcinogen (only if inhaled).

### 3.2 A particular contradiction (contradicio in adjecto) is the term “vegan leather”

#### A particular contradiction (contradicio in adjecto) is the term “vegan leather” Table – 3 B

A particular contradiction (contradicio in adjecto) is the term “vegan leather”. Since vegans do not eat or use animal products so how can the word leather (“a material made from the skin of an animal by tanning”) be associated with veganism!

- Due to their (in old days) noxious nature, tanning activities and tanners in virtually all cultures all over the globe were assigned to a very low social status, very often entirely outside “normal” society. In the worst-case scenario, such deeply rooted biases compounded by very aggressive campaigns based on false claims and agendas and possibly excessive legislation might jeopardize the future of the tanning industry as we know it.
- Admittedly, it (unnecessarily) took some time for tanners to accept that under some circumstances (long storage, high temperatures, use of low

**A particular contradiction (contradicio in adjecto) is the term “vegan leather” Table – 3 B**

quality fatliquors etc.) small amounts of Cr3+ can be oxidised to Cr6+ form.

Again, the real risk from the Cr6+ is regularly grossly exaggerated.

Furthermore, nowadays this can be easily prevented by using appropriate retanning agents (e.g., tara vegetable tannin) and appropriate fatliquors.

- It is a paradox that contemporary tanners only in very old books can read about long forgotten times when the two baths tanning method was used (e.g., for chevreaux leather) or when tanning liquors were made by converting (reducing) chromium dichromate (Cr6+) into trivalent chromium (Cr3+) with molasses within a tannery's own premises.
- The problem of the testing method itself, detection level etc. only contributed to the cacophony and confusion stemming from a lack of understanding of elementary chemistry and unfounded myths.

Source : 3. & Figure 3 A & Table – 3 B. The framework for sustainable leather manufacture, Second edition. Jakov Buljan, Ivan Kral'. 2019 by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

### **3.3 Higgs Index & Leather Industry - LEATHER INDUSTRY CALLS FOR HIGG INDEX REVIEW<sup>3.3</sup>**

Leather Naturally is one of the co-signatories requesting that the Higg index MSI score for leather be suspended pending review of the underlying methodologies and data. The leather industry is offering support to Higg Index and welcomes the opportunity to discuss the basis for the score, to provide the necessary data and assist with development of appropriate methodologies, to address its shortcomings.

**The use of inappropriate methodologies and out of date, unrepresentative, inaccurate and incomplete data, means that leather has been burdened with a disproportionately high Higg Index score.**

**Table – 3 C**

This has led to a negative perception of leather which does not reflect its sustainable, circular nature.

**The use of inappropriate methodologies and out of date, unrepresentative, inaccurate and incomplete data, means that leather has been burdened with a disproportionately high Higg Index score.**

**Table – 3 C**

- In the quest for improved sustainability, manufacturers will reference the Higg Index when designing products and making choices on materials.
- On the basis of current Higg score, these manufacturers are deselecting leather in favour of fossil fuel-derived, unsustainable synthetic products.
- As such, we believe that the reputation and viability of leather and leather manufacturers is being unfairly damaged by an assessment that does not reflect the true nature of leather or indeed, the alternatives.

- There are several areas of concern in the current basis for the Higg Index score for leather.

A viable and transparent alternative would be for the Higg Index score to be derived using the EU Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR) for Leather. The PEFCR have been developed and adopted by a credible and independent inter-governmental organisation, the European Commission, in consultation with the industry and using current and reliable datasets.

- Leather manufacture takes a waste from another industry and transforms it into a durable, versatile and sustainable product. As a result of a number of factors, including multiple campaigns of disinformation, demand for leather has fallen and we are now seeing vast amounts of renewable raw hides and skins simply being thrown away.
- It is estimated that as much as 16% of the cattle hides produced in the USA (5.5 million) were disposed of to landfill in 2019, with the negative environmental consequences this entails. In Brazil, a similar number have been diverted to lower value destinations, such as collagen and gelatine.
- Regrettably, the flawed Higg Index score for leather is one of those factors that has brought us to this point.

- It is hard to imagine that those companies using the Higg Index would want to be associated with the unnecessary waste of a sustainable, renewable and recyclable raw material.
- We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the basis for the score, to provide the necessary data and assist with development of appropriate methodologies, to address its shortcomings. Sustainability in products is an admirable and necessary ambition but it can only be achieved by informed and balanced consideration of the whole story of those products. At this time, it is clear that leather is not being given that consideration.

### 3.4 Concerns that leather-sector bodies raise in the letter include the MSI's - Higg Materials Sustainability Index

#### Concerns that leather-sector bodies raise in the letter include the MSI's - Higg Materials Sustainability Index Table –3 D

- Use of old, inaccurate data
- Narrow geographical focus
  - Misconceptions about the raw materials tanners use
- Reluctance to take into account the durability and longevity of leather in assessing its environmental impact
- More troubling is the lack of transparency on the basis for the score and the lack of engagement with the wider leather industry to ensure that the data is accurate

Source : Table – 3 D. Leather Industry calls Higg Index Score for Leather to be Suspended Published on October 8, 2020

### 3.5 Signing parties

#### Signing parties Table – 3 E

International Council of Tanners (ICT)  
 Australian Hides, Skins and Leather Exporters Association (ASHLEA)  
 Centro das Indústrias de Curtumes do Brasil  
 (Brazilian Tanners Association – CICB)



Signing parties Table – 3 E
<p>Confederation of National Associations of Tanners and Dressers of the European Community (COTANCE)</p> <p>International Council of Hides, Skins and Leather Traders Association (ICHSLTA)</p> <p>International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IULTCS)</p>
<p>L'Unione Nazionale Industria Conciaria (Italian Tanners Association – UNIC)</p> <p>Leather and Hide Council of America (LHCA)</p> <p>Leather Naturally Leather UK Leather Working Group (LWG) One 4 Leather Society of Leather Technologists and Chemists (SLTC)</p>

Source : 3.3 & Tables 3 C & 3 E. LEATHER INDUSTRY CALLS FOR HIGG INDEX REVIEW. Leather Naturally. [info@leathernaturally.org](mailto:info@leathernaturally.org)

The global leather industry is represented by the International Council of Tanners (ICT), International Council of Hides, Skins and Leather Traders Association (ICHSLTA) and International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IULTCS), which are the three main global leather organisations that comprise the Global Leather Coordinating Committee (GLCC), and COTANCE, the representative organisation for the European leather industry. GLCC receives technical support from various organisations including the Leather Working Group (LWG).

#### 4. Responsible chemistry and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)<sup>4</sup>

Focus is on three priorities to improve our environmental footprint and that of our customers:

- Using low-impact manufacturing chemicals
- Using biotechnology to replace non-renewable resources
- Using waste and recycled content contributing to circularity

From a sustainability viewpoint, it is equally important to look at what happens when the products we help to make reach the end of their respective roads. We actively try to replace petrochemicals with renewable resources.

## Responsible Chemistry Figure – 4 A



Using the Life Cycle Assessment methodology, we measure the impact of a product on the environment over the course of its life.

### 4.1. 12 Principles of Responsible Chemistry - Stahl <sup>4</sup>

Green Chemistry Principles	Explanation Table – 4 B
Resource efficiency	We take care of the resources we use. Where possible, we avoid using limited, finite feedstock. Renewable/CO <sub>2</sub> /Waste2Chemicals and recycled feedstock
Atom efficiency	We focus on creating chemical solutions with a high atom efficiency.
Decarbonization of energy	We support energy decarbonization by using energy efficient operations and renewable energy where possible.
Water management	We focus on responsible water usage and effluent outflow by us and our customers, so reducing the global pressure on water demand.
Waste management	We understand the economic, social and environmental benefits of reducing waste, and the

Green Chemistry Principles	Explanation Table – 4 B
	possibilities to assign value to waste as a resource for energy and new materials.
Best available technology	We strive to use the best available technology in respect to sustainability/circularity.
Support innovation	We love innovation because we love to change and make our world better, step by step. We are flexible and open minded.
Share knowledge (educate) and work together	We are a knowledge-based company. We work together, share knowledge and celebrate our successes.
Safety, health and the environment	Our chemical solutions and processes ensure that the risks of exposure to hazardous and non-hazardous chemicals and emissions are kept to a minimum for our employees, customers and the environment
Matching chemistry	We focus on understanding the whole value chain of our products – including recycling, composting – and so matching usage with end-of-life.
Product stewardship	We promote services over the full life cycle of a product rather than products alone, drive chemical leasing, and promote efficiency over production rate.
Measure and assess	We make smart decisions by using standardized methodologies to measure the impact of our products and processes on health, safety and the environment (LCA, ISO, ASTM 6866, EPD, VDA, etc.).

#### 4.2. What is Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)? <sup>4</sup>

LCA is a methodology that measures the impact of any product on the environment over the course of its life. The LCA methodology can provide quantitative data in a format that permits comparisons to be made. LCA will be an important value-added service for our customers in the supply chain in the future.

### 4.3 LCA defines nine impact categories<sup>4</sup>

- Climate change, • Abiotic depletion • Land use • Water consumption
- Eutrophication • Acidification • Toxicity • Photochemical ozone formation
- Ozone depletion

Source : 4. & Figure – 4 A & Tables 4 B .RESPONSIBLE CHEMISTRY INVOLVES RETHINKING PRIORITIES- STAHL .  
<https://www.stahl.com/responsible-chemistry/vision>

The approval of the Leather Product Category Rules (known as PCR or PEFCR) by the Environmental Footprint Committee of the EU is a major milestone for the leather industry.

It defines how LCA can be used to calculate the impact of leather manufacturing on the environment. It includes all aspects of leather manufacturing in tanneries; input data on hides, chemicals, water, energy, plus output data of water, air and waste.

## 5. Cleaner production, Green Chemistry Principles

### 5.1. Cleaner production<sup>5</sup>

The terms Cleaner Production, Pollution Prevention and Responsible Care are often used interchangeably.

#### Cleaner production Table – 5 A

Cleaner Production stands for a proactive and preventive approach to industrial environmental management and aims for process- and/or product-integrated solutions that are both environmentally and economically efficient ('eco-efficiency').

Cleaner Production (CP) and Pollution Prevention (P2) focus on a strategy of continuously reducing pollution and environmental impact through source reduction -- that is eliminating waste within the process rather than at the end-of pipe. Waste treatment does not fall under the definition of CP or P2 because it does not prevent the creation of waste.

Cleaner production (CP) is a general term used to describe a preventative approach to industrial activity It encompasses: waste minimization, waste avoidance, and pollution prevention.

Reference : 5. & Table 5 A. A Cleaner Production and Pollution Prevention In the Chemical Industries, Prof. Dr. El-Sayed Khater, Cleaner Production and Pollution Abatement Consultant National Research Center, Department of Chem. Eng. And Pilot Plant

## 6. Clean Technologies Concept

The European Commission defined clean technologies as follows:

Clean technologies are new industrial processes or modifications of existing ones intended to reduce the impact of production activities on the environment, including reducing the use of energy and raw materials.

To support the definition the main attributes of clean technologies were precisely formulated:

Conservation of raw materials, Optimization of production processes, Rational use of raw materials, Rational use of energy, Rational use of water, Disposal or recycling of unavoidable waste,

Accident prevention, Risk management to prevent major pollution, and Restoring sites after cessation of activities.

UNIDO continues to place an emphasis on the introduction of cleaner leather processing technology in developing countries.<sup>6</sup>

The primary task of all cleaner technologies is to reduce the amount pollution emissions; and where possible change the nature of pollution emissions to reduce the pressure and costs of end-of-pipe treatment.

## 7. Green Chemistry <sup>7</sup>

In simple terms, Green Chemistry is maintaining environmentally sound practices through the lifecycle of a chemical product (design, manufacture, use and ultimate disposal) and processes.

### The 12 Principles of Green Chemistry **Table – 7A**

1. Pollution Prevention
2. Atom Economy
3. Less Hazardous Chemical Synthesis
4. Designing Safer Chemicals
5. Safer Solvents and Auxiliaries
6. Design for Energy Efficiency
7. Use of Renewable Feedstocks
8. Reduce Derivatives

## The 12 Principles of Green Chemistry **Table – 7A**

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 9. Catalysis   | 10. Design for Degradation |
| 11. Real-time analysis for Pollution Prevention        |                            |
| 12. Inherently Safer Chemistry for Accident Prevention |                            |

Source: 7. & Table -7A. What is Green Chemistry - <https://www.calpaclab.com/what-is-green-chemistry/>

### 8. The Goal of Green Chemistry<sup>8</sup>

Understanding the chemical aspects of renewable energy. Using sustainable resources. Designing new, greener and safer chemicals and materials. Preventing pollution at the molecular level (learn more about hazardous waste). Creating innovative solutions through safe chemical practices to solve real-world problems. Maintaining and designing new chemical products and processes to reduce intrinsic hazards.

#### 8.1 The 10 Green Chemistry Principles Applied Figure –8 A



Source : 8 & Figure - 8 A. SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE REPORT 2017 – 2018, Dystar [www.DyStar.com](http://www.DyStar.com)



## 9. Best Available Techniques & BAT reference documents (BREF) <sup>9</sup>

BAT what does mean - Best Available Techniques .Best Available Technology. Best practicable means. Best practicable environmental option. Best Available Control Technology (US Clean Air Act).

Definition of Best Available Techniques, BATs Table - 9 A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “best” means most effective in achieving a high general level of protection of the environment as a whole</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “available” techniques are those developed on a scale which allows implementation in the relevant industrial sector, under economically and technically viable conditions, taking into consideration the costs and advantages, whether or not the techniques are used or produced inside the Member State in question, as long as they are reasonably accessible to the operator;</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “techniques” includes both the technology used and the way in which the installation is designed, built, maintained, operated and decommissioned;</li></ul>

Source: 9. & Table- 9A. Review of some EU normative documents and legislation and their relevance for the tanning industry in developing countries, Best Available Techniques Reference Document (BREF), UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION + Introduction to Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) Prof. Dr. Ivan Holoubek, UNIDO

### 9.1 BAT Documents for Leather

BAT Documents for Leather Table – 9 B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1. Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference Document for the Tanning of Hides and Skins J R C R E F E R E N C E R E P O R T S, Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU(Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) by Michael Black, Michele Canova, Stefan Rydin, Bianca Maria Scalet, Serge Roudier, Luis Delgado Sancho . 2013.</li><li>• 2. EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC), Reference Document on Best Available Techniques for the Tanning of Hides and Skins, February 2003.</li></ul>

### BAT Documents for Leather Table – 9 B

- 3. Review of some EU normative documents and legislation and their relevance for the tanning industry in developing countries - Part I-Best Available Techniques Reference Document (BREF) by Jakov BULJAN Leather consultant (Environmental/OSH Regulations) & Ivan KRÁL Project Manager. UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO).

#### 9.2 BAT is a dynamic concept and so the review of the BREFs is a continuing process.<sup>9 B</sup>

- Leather could be the Ultimate in Sustainable Materials if manufactured with best available technologies (BAT). Sustainability and leather do match up.
- The leather making process is the transfer of a 100 % renewable resource to a highly valuable and toxicological safe substrate.
- In fact, leather manufacturing is part of a big recycling industry and solves a huge waste problem of the meat industry.
- Leather can be made without sustainable damage of the environment if best available technologies are followed

Source : 9&9 B & Table-9 A. & 9B. Review of some EU normative documents and legislation and their relevance for the tanning industry in developing countries, Best Available Techniques Reference Document (BREF), UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION + Introduction to Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) Prof. Dr. Ivan Holoubek, UNIDO.

#### 10. Leather- example of circular Economy<sup>10</sup>

Leather is the result of the recycling of a slaughterhouse leftover - Hides & Skins. Tanneries tend to maximize the use of valuable matter. Tanning inputs other than hides and skins are often by-products. Solid and liquid residues from leather production can be valorized. Leather is a durable material and products designed to last and to be repaired, made with leather are often re-used (second hand). Leather of articles at their end of life might, after dismantling, find a new life. Leather is substantially a circular economy product.

## 10.1 Leather belongs to a Circular Economy

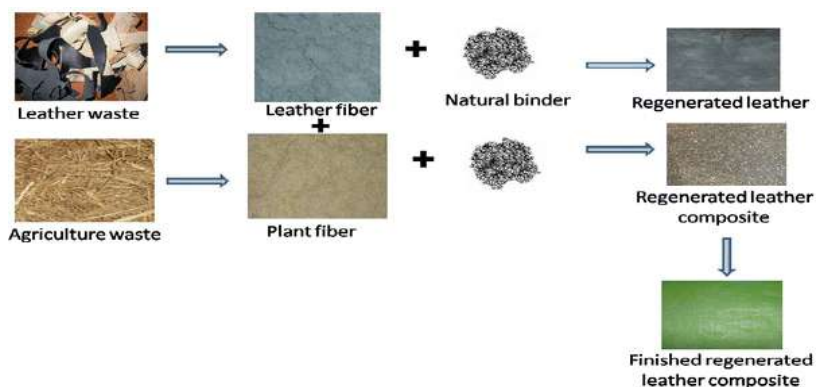
- Leather is natural, biodegradable & durable
- Leather & Leather Products are recycled and up cycled for fuller utilization, value additions & environmental protection.
- Leather is manufactured from Hides & Skins which are by products of meat industry and are also from fallen animals. Leather is a by-product of the food industry. Leather tanning is the oldest form of recycling and their by-product are up cycled items with a higher added value.
- Leather has been used in human life since ancient times. The only difference is that earlier people did not use it much, now they are using it a lot. A Leather & Leather product is stylish, classy and looks very attractive and lasts for a long time.
- Leather has always been associated with quality and luxury. A leather product is immediately perceived as superior, acquiring an intrinsic value both for the suppliers and end-users.
- Environmental challenges, Sustainable Leather Management, Certifications to International Standards on Quality, Traceability, Environmental protection, Chemical management and related areas are being addressed on an ongoing basis by Leather Industry, Government, Research Organizations, Leather Industry Association and Trade Groups and Organizations and institutions connected with Leather & Leather Related Activities.
- Leather is beautiful and Leather Industry definitely belongs to the Circular Economy family.
- The above evidences can support and corroborate that Leather Industry as a Circular one and Leather Industry can be easily identified as a Circular Economy.
- **It can be emphatically said that Leather has a close relationship to the proverb that A Thousand Gold if there is an Elephant, A Thousand Gold even if it dies.**

## 11. Regenerated Leather (RGL) & Regenerated Leather Composites (RLCs)<sup>11</sup>

Preparation of leather like material, i.e., regenerated leather (RGL) from finished leather wastes is economical and helps in reducing environmental pollution. Incorporating plant fibers (PFs) into RGL enhances its mechanical properties. Plant fibers are exploited as reinforcement materials owing to their low cost, fairly good mechanical properties, high specific strength, non-abrasive, eco-friendly and bio-degradability characteristics.

Fiberized leather wastes and PFs were mixed in various proportions to prepare regenerated leather composites (RLCs). Plant fibers viz., coconut, sugarcane, banana and corn silk were also used. RLCs are promising for the preparation of leather goods and footwear materials in addition to its cost-effectiveness and environmental pollution abatement.

### 11.1 Regenerated Leather Composites (RLCs) Figure – 11 A



Source : 11 & Figure -11 A. Recycling of finished leather wastes: a novel approach, Clean Technologies and Environmental Policy volume 17, pages187–197(2015)

## 12. Up cycling of Leather Waste to Create Up cycled Products and Accessories

High value-added up cycled Fashion and Home Accessories have been developed from leather scrap waste generated from the manufacturing and sewing process of leather products - Cushion Covers, Table Mats, Holders/Folders, Hand Bags, Yokes and Collars, Ear Rings and Necklaces.

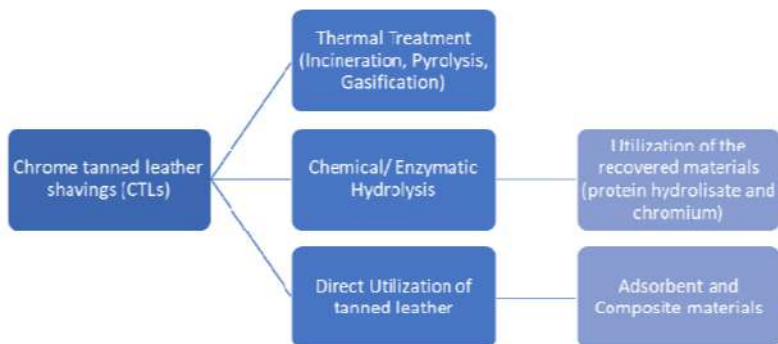
Amtrak makes Luxury Bags out of old leather train seats.

## 12.1 Waste Management Methodologies<sup>12</sup>

Several treatment techniques have been developed and they can be briefly classified into the following classes.

- Direct use to make composites.
- Utilization of recovered collagen from hydrolysis.
- Thermal treatment process.

## 12.2 Waste Management Methods Figure – 12 A



Source : 12& Figure 12 A. Recycling of Chrome-Tanned Leather and Its Utilization as Polymeric Materials and in Polymer-Based Composites: A Review, Maria Federica Parisi \*, Alessandro Nanni and Martino Colonna \* Department of Civil, Chemical, Environmental and Materials Engineering, University of Bologna, 40131 Bologna, Italy.

*(Continued...)*

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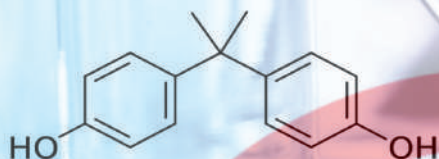


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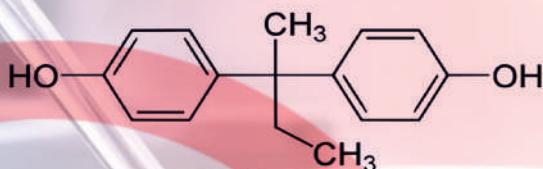
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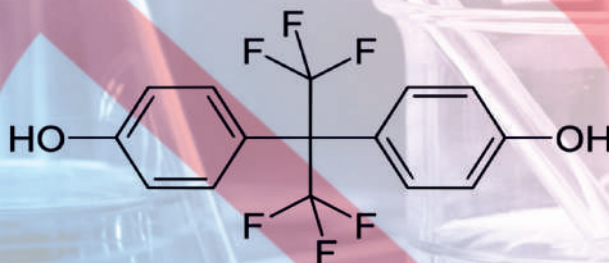
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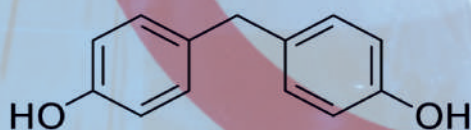
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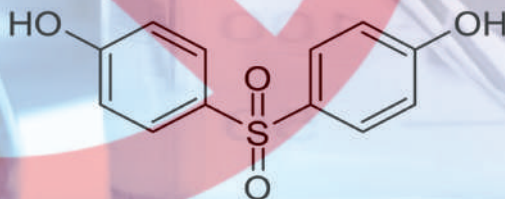
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