



Minutes of the IULTCS Executive Committee Meeting
8th October 2008
Hotel Rio Othon Palace
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Minutes of Executive Committee meeting

The Executive Secretary called the meeting to order at 12.45 hrs.

1. Attendees

Elton Hurlow (President), Marc Folachier (Past-President), Dr Campbell Page (Secretary-Treasurer), Volkan Candar, Patricia Casey, Joan Carles Castell, Carlos Kiefer, Dr S Rajamani, Daniel Sánchez, Hugo Springer, Katia Streit, Vilmar Trevisan.

Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from: Dr Bi Shi, Dr Domenico Castiello, Su Chaoying, Dr Heinz-Peter Germann, Dr Jeffrey Guthrie-Strachan, Arnab Jha, Dr Michael Meyer, Doug Tabor, Ricardo Weiss and Mike Wilson.

2. Minutes of the last Executive Committee meeting, 31st March 2008 in Hong Kong

These had been circulated previously and there being no amendments, the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Action items

The separate list of action items established at the last meeting was reviewed - most items have been satisfactorily progressed.

3. President's Report

It seems that the March meeting of the Executive Committee was only last week. Time passes very quickly. There is a lot happening in our industry and I know that everyone is very busy dealing with day-to-day business issues. So, I certainly appreciate those who have found the time to come to Rio and share their expertise during our Executive and Commission meetings. I am sure you will also be rewarded as you participate in the proceedings of the XVII Latin American and XVIII Brazilian Congress which starts tonight. This Congress is being held under the auspices of the IULTCS as an affiliated Regional Conference. I trust that the affiliation with the IULTCS has contributed to the interest and support of this Congress. There is a lot of work that goes into holding such an event and in I want to register an official note of thanks in advance to the organizers for their hard work and to the sponsors for their generosity. Without your efforts and support, such events are not possible.

Over the last few months I have had the opportunity during my business travels to visit the Senai Leather School and ABQITIC headquarters in Estancia Velha, Brazil and the CLRI in Chennai, India. These were informal visits, but I am encouraged by the excellent work being done in education, research and technical communications by the dedicated leather industry professionals I met there. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their professional contribution to the advance of "*technology, chemistry, and science of leather on a worldwide basis*". This is indeed a direct quote from the goals of the IULTCS and we thank them for the services they provide. I would encourage individual EC members to visit these types of leather organizations and institutions as travel allows. You are ambassadors for our Union, and so familiarize yourself with what these organizations are doing, thank them on behalf of the IULTCS, and encourage them and their students to participate in local professional associations and of course if possible the International Union.

With regard to other activities, I can report on the following:

1. Global Teleconference Meetings:
 - a. A teleconference was held with the Chairs of the IU commissions. Individuals reported on current activities and successes.
 - b. A global teleconference was held with Regional Representatives to the EC. The goal was to update on activities, share best practice, and to ensure we remain focused on our objectives.Separate minutes were issued for each meeting. Individuals have expressed that these conference calls make them feel part of a single global organization and we plan to continue these calls to ensure that we can sustain momentum on various projects and activities.
2. Formation of a new IU commission on Communication and Liaison (IUL) under the leadership of Marc Folachier. We will discuss further the role and start-up of this commission's activities during this meeting.
3. Distribution of a draft document on Statutes and International Regulations that incorporate the proposal of direct representation onto the EC. We will review this draft during the course of our meeting.
4. We appointed a new IUT chair – Mr. Jeffrey Guthrie-Strachan, and he has already started work on developing a proposal for a “Professional Growth Program” which will certify individuals who are active in developing their professional leather skills. He will need help with this project and we will discuss this later in today's meeting.

It is important that the EC continue to focus on improving our individual performance and the visibility of our activities to ensure acceptance and alignment with the needs of the leather industry. The relevance of the IULTCS in today's difficult marketplace is greater than it has been in the past, and I will share some further ideas on this in a presentation tomorrow morning. Leather, as a unique and defining component material, is under pressure on one hand from the “good enough for purpose” mentality that relentlessly drives down prices. On the other hand, we have pressure from synthetic materials that continually improve the look and performance of substitute components. The sustainability of our raw material, the technical utility, performance, durability, and natural aesthetic beauty of finished leather needs to be supported more than ever to ensure that leather remains a sought after material by top end manufacturers and is perceived as being of high value by end consumers. The IULTCS cannot do this alone, but competent technical input and creative science is necessary to help maintain the identity of leather as a component brand.

Thank you again for attending this EC meeting and I look forward to a solid “working session” in which I hope we get much accomplished.

4. Secretary/Treasurers Report

a) Membership & Subscriptions

The Secretary reported that to date all Member Societies except Mexico have paid their subscription for 2008. Mexico has been approached and was reviewing the situation with the hope it could pay.

The future status of Chile and Norway as Members remains uncertain. Patricia Casey and Campbell Page noted that they have continued to send information to them. The President asked that this be continued.

There are 3 Associate Members and 6 Supporting Members with banner sponsorship on the IULTCS website.

b) Financial situation

The assets of the IULTCS were reported in detail at the last meeting. The investments have not changed since then but the value of the main investment Funds is lower due to the turbulence on the world finance markets.

Currently IULTCS has a bank balance of 23060 EUR. This balance is more than required and part of it is planned to be invested. Again the changes in the finance markets has meant this has not been made until now.

The accounts are in line with the 2008 Budget approved at the last EC meeting.

e) Website advertising (Sponsoring Members)

The income from advertising Banners on the IULTCS website is a very important income source for IULTCS. The Secretary asked that each Region to try and help with obtaining Sponsoring Members for IULTCS. At 500 EUR per year the banner advertising on the IULTCS website is very attractively priced.

5. Activity reports from the Regions

The President asked that each Regional Representative add an “Executive Summary” at the start of the reports so these can be added directly into the minutes and the full report can then be included as an Annex.

a) Eastern Europe

Michael Meyer reported that FILK in Freiberg, Germany held their well respected Collagen Symposium on the 11th & 12th September 2008.

b) Central Europe (see Annex A for the full report)

Heinz-Peter Germann reported that the German Society, VGCT, had held its 2008 meeting in conjunction with the Annual Industry Seminar at Reutlingen in March. The Seminar is held in English and German and some 120 people attended, with approximately 40 from 13 countries other than Germany. These Annual Industry Seminars are becoming popular as a technical exchange for those in the leather industry.

The 2008 VGCT President is Dr. Gerhard Nickolaus and Dr. Hermann Birkhofer is vice-president.

VESLIC, the Swiss Society reported it had also held its annual meeting.

c) Northern Europe (see Annex A for the full report)

Jeffrey Guthrie-Strachan commented as follows:

The SLTC has been upgrading their website and is now offering the JSLTC in an E-journal format.

The 2008 SLTC Conference was successful, with Christine Powley-Williams to be the next President of the SLTC.

The SLTC (South African Section) had a successful 2008 Conference and are looking to see how they can work closer with the SLTC parent body.

The NLFK (Norway, Sweden, Denmark) decided to terminate at their last meeting. The Nordic Leather Research Council (NLRC) had a meeting in Luleå, Sweden in May 2008. It is being investigated how the individuals in the NLFK can have memberships through the SLTC or direct memberships to the IULTCS.

d) Latin Europe (see Annex A for the full report of each country)

Dr Domenico Castiello reported as follows:

AICC - Italy

The AICC in Italy have had an active year in 2007. Highlights have included technical meetings on the topic of VOC and its problems, as well as a meeting on the impact of REACH on the tanning industry.

In October 2007 the AICC annual meeting was held in Soave (VI). It was approved to contribute €200 to each student enrolled in the specialised tannery schools in Italy.

AFICTIC - France

Following the very busy year in 2007, AFICTIC Society in France has continued with national leather technical meetings and local technical meetings as listed in the full report in Annex A. The officers of the AFICTIC are also listed in the full report in Annex A.

AQEIC – Spain

They have been busy with their local conference and preparations for the Valencia IULTCS Congress. Environmental issues and REACH are key topics of interest. The Chair of the IUC now comes from Spain.

DETEK - Turkey

Ergun Utku from DETEK in Turkey reported their activities have been very industry related, looking at the impact of the economic situation and the environment. Information and booklets have been prepared to help with a better understanding. A full report is given in Annex A.

e) Central Latin America (see Annex A for the ACOLCUR full report)

ACOLCUR – Colombia

Juan Manuel Salazar reported that ACOLCUR in Colombia has been active in very difficult economic conditions for the leather industry. ACOLCUR has held meetings and continues to issue its local magazine although with less issues per year.

The IU / ISO leather test methods have been adopted as Colombian Standards.

Environmental issues are starting to become very important as certain regional governments in Colombia start enforcing waste water limits.

A large effort has been put into establishing an interesting and useful website. It is well worth taking a look at www.acolcur.org.

ABQTIC – Brazil

Katia Streit reported that amongst tanners in Brazil there was a lot of uncertainty about registering wet-blue for the new EU Regulation REACH. Two seminars had been held in the South of Brazil to explain REACH. Joan Carles Castell briefly explained REACH to the EC.

A group of 15 people from the Brazilian leather industry and the authorities have been in Italy and France looking at state of the art facilities for handling solid wastes from the leather industry. The aspects being studied are the use of leather wastes in fertilisers and an economical way of removing the total nitrogen from waste water. R&D work in 3 locations is taking place.

ABQTIC is organised so that each local area has a Vice-President – this is 10 people – who are responsible for local meetings.

f) South Latin America

Patricia Casey reported that the Argentinean Leather Meeting had taken place on the 27 -28th November, with some 10 papers presented.

g) North Asia

Elton Hurlow reported he had recently been in Shanghai and had met with the colleagues from China. The meeting had focussed on the preparations for the IULTCS Congress in 2009.

6. Progress reports for IULTCS Congresses

XVII Latin American FLAQTIC Congress, Oct. 2008

Katia Streit reported that the FLAQTIC Congress is the culmination of 2 years work by ABQTIC. As the Congress starts there are 246 participants, considering the economic difficulties this was very pleasing. Some 25 oral and 2 sets of 10 visual presentations are planned, along with 9 anchor presentations; meaning that there is a very full programme. A simultaneous translation; Portuguese, Spanish and English is arranged.

In answer to a question, Katia said 9 Brazilian experts selected the papers. The IULTCS Congress Guidelines stipulate that an international committee vet the papers and if necessary the EC can assist in finding suitable professionals to help with this process.

A de-briefing of the FLAQTIC organisers with 4 EC members will be held at the conclusion of the Congress.

XXX IULTCS Congress – Beijing, China, 11th – 14th Oct. 2009

Elton Hurlow reported that the organisation is well in hand. The IULTCS Congress Guidelines are being followed. The full details can be seen on the Congress website, (www.chinaleather.org/iultcs). The organisers are still negotiating for the Congress hotel.

A budget has been prepared and sponsors are actively being sort. Registration fees are provisionally \$580 for IU Members and \$630 for non-IU Members. This includes the banquets, lunches and coffee breaks. Payments would be in US\$ and by bank transfer, payment by credit cards are still not certain.

A Congress website is operating (www.chinaleather.org/iultcs) and EC Members are urged to check it out. The Congress website is also linked to the advertisement on the IULTCS website.

An advertisement plan involving international and local leather magazines has been started.

Dr Bi Shi is organising the technical papers and has prepared a list of topics for technical presentations. Details of how to prepare abstracts and papers is on the Congress website.

The tentative schedule for the IULTCS Congress has been set as follows:

Sunday, Oct. 11	Registration
Monday, Oct. 12	Opening Ceremony Memorial Lecture, technical sessions and visual display Welcome banquet
Tuesday, Oct. 13	Technical sessions & Visual display
Wednesday, Oct. 14	Technical sessions & Visual display Closing ceremony Tour of Beijing and farewell Banquet

Please note the key dates:

Abstracts for papers are to be submitted by Dec.15, 2008

Authors of accepted papers will be notified by March 15, 2009

Full texts of approved manuscripts must be submitted prior to June 15, 2009

Registration: 11 Oct. 2009 (Sunday)

It is hoped that many of those attending the FLAQTIC will submit technical papers for the Beijing Congress.

XXXI IULTCS Congress – Valencia, Spain – 28th – 30th Sept. 2011

Daniel Sánchez, chairman of the Congress organizing committee, reported that an agreement with a professional conference organiser is close to being signed.

The Committee has sent out invitations for members of the scientific committee to be chaired by Prof. Dr. Luisa Cabeza, with Dr. Augusti Marsal as the co-chair.

The Congress organisers are applying to the EU to have some assistance in running the Congress. Also the Committee plans in 2009 to approach the Spanish Education Ministry for support.

Other possible IULTCS supported Regional Conferences

Marc Folachier reported that in 2006 he had attended the 7th Asia Leather Congress in Chengdu. At the Congress, Marc offered them the support of IULTCS for their next Congress since this was an important meeting for the region of China, India, Japan and South Korea. Marc understands the next Congress is scheduled to be held in India in 2010, possibly linked to the Chennai Leather Fair in January. He would like to know who is organising the Congress so his offer of making it an IULTCS supported Regional Conference can be put to them.

The President agreed to find out who was organising it and to offer the IULTCS support.

7. IULTCS Commission Reports

IUT Commission

Dr. Jeffrey Guthrie-Strachan sent the following report:

Achieved:

Findings of training needs questionnaire presented at ILF in Paris

List of training facilities presented at ILF in Paris

Jeffrey appointed as new Chairman in June 2008

Current:

Jeffrey establishing contact with Commission members and has written a rough introduction to Professional Growth Programme (PGP). Sent to President for further discussion, Aug 2008

Planned:

Target new members for commission from Americas and Far East

Discuss introduction and structure of a Professional Growth Programme with Elton Hurlow

Establish global Education/Training facilities framework (ongoing)

Identify global Education/Training facilities (ongoing)

Elton Hurlow added that he is working with Jeffrey on the Continuing Education – Professional Growth Programme. The idea is to encourage all professionals to continue to enhance their knowledge of the

industry and this should be an active, and life-long growth and learning process. The proposal is for a Certificate of Professional Growth to be awarded by the IUT using a point system based on industry related activities, e.g. attendance at industry seminars, giving papers at conferences, etc. A 5 year accreditation programme is suggested. Joan Carles Castell noted this could fit in with the proposal to harmonise the leather education programmes in Europe. Marc Folachier commented one had to be careful that the conditions for the Certificate were clear and transparent and it was accepted by the industry. Jeffry is looking for suitably qualified volunteers from all member associations to serve on the IUT.

IUR Commission

Volkan Candar reported that it is now 2 years since the IUR was established. He has been working with CTC to prepare the proposal for a constitution and mission statement. These will be discussed at the IUR meeting in 2 days time. The topics of research priorities and intellectual property are complicated but Volkan's aim is to keep it moving.

The President commented the IUR members must agree on the proposal and that it must be kept simple and straight forward. Marc Folachier noted that the IUR itself will not be carrying out the R&D work but it is important to be able to give support as an international organisation to R&D projects, especially in applications for funding.

It was agreed that an IUR section would be established on the IULTCS website and the list of Research Institutes would be placed on the web.

IUC, IUF and IUP Commissions (see Annex B for the full report)

The Secretary reported that the IUC had nominated Joan Carles Castell as the new Chairman. The EC welcomed Joan Carles to his first EC meeting.

Joan Carles Castell and Campbell Page reported that a combined IUC / IUF / IUP and CEN/TC 289 meeting for leather test methods had recently been held at FILK in Freiberg, Germany on the 10th September. A summary of the status of the progress in current and new leather test methods is summarised in Annex D.

Joan Carles commented that the EU Regulation REACH will have consequences for test methods. Elton Hurlow commented that any test methods developed by the IU Commissions for REACH should include international input and be accepted as international methods. Patricia Casey commented this was an excellent goal but difficult in some fields such as automotive where each manufacturer had their own methods of testing. In some cases leather was being asked to comply with test methods developed for plastic components. Some of the automotive companies are now starting to have people with knowledge of leather. Joan Carles said these methods were often developed to meet special requirements within a car, an area where we as leather experts had less understanding.

Campbell Page reported that in the last year there the CEN/TC 289/WG4 has begun to work with the Leather Technical Committee of the German Automobile Manufacturers. The aim is to develop more uniform leather test methods for all the involved auto companies, although the individual specifications each manufacturer requires will not be part of this. The first steps have already been made to introduce through the IUC/IUF/IUP Commissions some 6 new test methods so a complete list of test procedures for automotive leather can be made into a Standard.

Elton and Marc proposed that an ILF type of event could be held to try and understand each others needs better and to establish contacts at an international level. The aim should be to try and make sure the methods make sense for the industry and harmonise the methods by having them accepted globally.

Marc saw this as a good start and it should be developed further on a global basis (act locally, think globally). Elton asked a sub-committee of Marc, Campbell, Joan Carles, Patricia and himself look into this and the proposal to make an ILF type seminar on this topic.

EC members are reminded that current test methods at the comments stage are available on the IULTCS website and all members of the IULTCS Societies who involved in leather test methods are encouraged to review these documents and to give their comments.

An up-to-date list of the IUC, IUF and IUP test methods along with the equivalent ISO and EN Standards are also listed on the IULTCS website and can be downloaded.

IUE Commission

Dr Rajamani reported that for 24 years the IUE has met every year. There are 29 countries involved and some 60 people have participated.

The next IUE meeting will be held directly after this EC meeting and Dr Rajamani will present a paper at the FLAQTIC Congress outlining the activities of the IUE.

In many countries environmental regulations are restricting the growth of the leather industry. For example, in China tanneries can only increase capacity if they reduce the discharges to waste.

9. IUL Commission

The new IUL Commission (L = liaison) has now been established and Marc Folchier is the Commission chairman. The goals and objectives have been circulated by e-mail and now there was a need to have nominations of participants who have knowledge in this area. These need to be experienced persons who can contribute at high level on industry issues.

Marc said he hoped to build up some files on positive communication and problems in the industry. With this information one can react quickly and with facts to any negative publicity.

Marc will prepare a questionnaire to identify:

- what is important for your country
- what topics are important in your market
- what are the public concerns about leather in your country
- what are the key priorities for the leather industry

There was a need to have this information to help legitimise actions taken when making communications.

10. Changes to the Regional Representative structure

Following the initial proposal at the Hong Kong EC meeting in March, Elton Hurlow said he had given a lot of further thought to the Regional Representative structure on the EC of the IULTCS. It has been proposed that each IULTCS Member be given a direct representation on the IULTCS Executive Committee. This would not enlarge the Committee by too many people, even if all attended a meeting, but this would give a chance for a wider and more direct participation of all Member Societies in the EC meetings and activities.

To reflect these changes, Elton has drawn up a draft of revised IULTCS Statutes and Internal Regulations. These provide for direct representation, but also allows for voluntary Regional representation with proxy voting rights if regions so desire. The big difference is that the initiative will come from the Regions and is not dictated by the IULTCS.

Associate Members will be encouraged to attend EC meetings but will not have voting rights.

Elton went step-wise through the changes to the Statutes and Internal Regulations that he proposed. He asked Members to re-read the changes as he wanted all voices to be heard. The EC will accept any comments and the plan is to present for approval the changed EC structure at the Council of Delegates meeting at the Beijing Congress.

11. IULTCS Website

The Secretary reported that since the start of 2008 the IULTCS website has been continually changed and up-dated. He especially asked all EC Members to look regularly at the website and use the facility – it contains a lot of useful information. Any suggestions for improvements and any corrections should be sent to the Secretary.

A number of the Members Societies have taken advantage of the opportunity to add additional information about their Society. We are happy to include information on Member Societies. Any new information should be forwarded to the Secretary.

12. Any Other Business

a) Election of next Vice-President

Now that Dr Bi Shi has taken office as Vice-President, the election of the next Vice-President can take place. The Vice-President has to be an Executive Committee member and is elected by the Executive Committee. 2 nominations (Volkan Candar and Domenico Costello) are pending from 2007, updated CVs will be requested from them. Any additional nominations of other Executive Committee members close on the 4th December. The EC agreed to undertake a vote by e-mail in January 2009.

b) VESLIC Award

Campbell Page reported that the Association of Swiss Leather Chemists, VESLIC, had considered ways of encouraging younger scientists to give papers at leather conferences. With the approval of the FLAQITC organisers VESLIC would be presenting a Swiss watch to the best young presenter at the FLAQITC Congress. If this is well accepted then it could be also made at future IULTCS Congresses.

The President asked that if this does continue that VESLIC formulate guidelines for the “VESLIC Award” so it can be formalised to get the maximum effect.

c) 2015 IULTCS Congress

Brazil officially asked the EC for permission to hold the 2015 IULTCS Congress.

13. Date and Location of next Executive Committee Meeting

The President proposed that an IULTCS Executive Committee should be held before the next IULTCS Congress in Beijing. After meetings in China and Brazil it was proposed that the meeting be at a European location at a date coinciding with an important leather event, e.g., the LGR Tagung at Reutlingen, Germany on 10th – 12th March 2009.

Next meeting: Monday, 9th March 2009 at 14.00h at Reutlingen Tanning School, Reutlingen, Germany
Full details will be circulated nearer the time.

At 16.40h the President thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the IULTCS Executive meeting closed.

Campbell Page
Secretary/Treasurer IULTCS

20.11.2008



Annex A

Central Europe Region

VGCT activities

The German Society of Leather Chemists and Technologists (VGCT) has held its 60th General Meeting in combination with the 35th annual Seminar Meeting of the Lederinstitut Gerberschule Reutlingen (LGR) from March 4th – 6th, 2008. The number of participants attending the seminar on this year's topic beamhouse & tanning and associated technologies totaled 120, and of these approximately 35% were from 13 different countries outside Germany.

The technical programme comprised presentations of 14 technical papers, which covered latest findings and reviews in the present state of beamhouse processes with a certain emphasis on the field of biotechnology i.e. the application of enzymes. The future of leather fungicides, new approaches to ecologically advantageous tanning, novelties on health and safety in the tannery and the machinery sector with presentations on the modern state in fleshing and handling in the beamhouse, the evolution in lime-splitting and the use of highly chemical resistant materials for processing vessels and different constructions in the tannery were other interesting topics included. Finally, new concepts in education and training at LGR were presented by Heinz-Peter Germann, LGR-director and moderator of the event.

The presentations were in German and English, with simultaneous translations of the papers and the following discussions.

In the afternoon of March 6th, 2008 a meeting of the Board of VGCT was followed by the General meeting of members which included the reports of the President (*Dr. H. Birkhofer*), the Treasurer (*Dr. H.-P. Germann*) and the representatives of the 2 Technical Commissions („Leather testing and quality assessment“ – *Dr. H. Schulz* on behalf of the chairman *Dr. H.-J. Kellert* and „Chemical auxiliaries“ – chairman *Dr. H. Francke*). In rotation, new elections took place with *Dr. Gerhard Nickolaus* being elected president and *Dr. Hermann Birkhofer* vice-president.

The VGCT event was completed by a Welcome party in a beautiful restaurant on Reutlingen's local mountain Achalm, in the evening of the same day. The board and members of VGCT felt very much honoured by the presence of IULTCS-President *Elton Hurlow*, who participated also as a speaker in the technical conference.

Next year's General Meeting of VGCT will be held from May 7-8, 2009 at Eisenach. The next meeting of the board of VGCT is scheduled for November 18th, 2008 in Ludwigshafen.

VESLIC activities

The Swiss Leather Chemists & Technologists Association held its annual meeting on the 17th October 2008. Some 25 members attended a visit to the Wattwil Textile School with a demonstration of many of the machines in the well equipped technical laboratory. This was followed by the VESLIC Annual General meeting. The present officers were re-elected, in addition Andreas Hunziker was elected as a new VESLIC committee member. In the discussions the president, Dr Alois Püntener, answered many questions on REACH. It was proposed and accepted that VESLIC sponsor future IULTCS Congresses with the VESLIC Award of a Swiss watch to the best young presenter. Dr Püntener and Dr Campbell Page agreed to prepare some guidelines for the Award.

Northern Europe Region

SLTC Council (UK) - Chris Powley-Williams

- Update and upgrade website
- E-journal
- Searchable Abstracts
- Successful 2008 111th Year Conference
- John Avery steps down as president and Christine Powley-Williams steps in
- John Avery stays on as Vice President for 1 year

SLTC (South African Section) - Athol Pratt

- Successful 2008 Conference
- Sam Wells elected as president
- Sam Wells had to step down as president and Athol Pratt stepped in
- Investigating closer relationships with parent body

SLTC (Australia Section) - Edrich Chaffer

- No activities to report

NLFK (Norway, Sweden, Denmark) - Johannes Borge

- NLFK terminated at the last AGM
- A social function will be continued by the Nordic Leather Research Council (NLRC)
- NLRC had meeting in Luleå , Sweden in May 2008
- Nordic hide suppliers invited every second year
- Individuals will investigate memberships through SLTC and will be informed of the President's intentions to allow direct memberships to IULTCS

Latin Europe Region

AICC - Italy

10 March 2007

AICC has organized a one day meeting for its members in the Tuscany District, on the theme "The problems of VOC (Organic Volatile Compounds) - The state of things, realized interventions and in phase of realization in the various district". This meeting has had a great participation, and the representatives of the Italian Tannery District, have prepared reports on the situation in the various areas.

17 May 2007

AICC has organized a one day meeting for its members in the Campania District, on the theme "The European Chemical Tannery in light of REACH".

From 20 to 24 of June 2007

There has been the XXIX IULTCS Congress in Washington.

Dr. Castiello has participated, and during the Congress there were also the IULTCS Executive Committee Meeting and the IULTCS Council of Delegates Meeting.

17 September 2007

ILF International Leather Forum in Paris. The aim of this event is to give to the various actors of the world of leather, the possibility to exchange and share the various experiences.

There were 4 round tables:

- Leather experts for tomorrow – Knowledge management
- Research priorities and proposal for a worldwide research network
- Leather markets and poisoning of leather
- Positive communication and crisis communication

27 October 2007

AICC Annual company meeting, in Soave (VI). During this meeting it has been given a report on the various activities of the association, like the participation at the Washington IULTCS Congress, at the ILF in Paris. Moreover it has been discussed and approved the proposal of giving a contribution of €200,00 to all the students that make the enrolment to the specialized tannery schools in Italy.

03 March 2008

There has been a meeting in Rome organized by the Ministry of Education. AICC has been invited to the conference "Person, technologies and professional competence for an innovative school". Our President, Giancarlo Dani and Mr Umberto Sammarco did participate.

11 April 2008

AICC has organized a one day meeting for its members in the Tuscany District in San Miniato (PI).

30 May 2008

AICC has organized a one day meeting and the Annual Company meeting for its members in the Campania District, in Solofra (AV), on the theme “Leather: Past, Present, Future”.

AFICTIC - France

National event

6th French leather, leather-good and footwear Congress, September 2008

Two full days on Sustainable Development for the Leather Industries sponsored by CIDIC, CTC, Fédération Française de la Tannerie Mégisserie, chemical companies and equipment suppliers (ATC, BASF Curtex, Esjot group, Haen, Indigo Quimica SL, Langro Chemie, Lectra, Shahl France, TFL, and 3M France) and also Tannery Gordon Choisy, Michel Retilli SRL, TCIM, Tannery du Puy, Tannery ROUX) and ITECH (the French tanning school)

3 round tables:

- Pros and cons of Sustainable Development
- Eco-design
- How to implement Sustainable Development in small and medium size enterprises

International Events

International leather Forum (ILF)

Paris, 2007 September 17th

Organised by AFICTIC the French Leather Technicians and Chemists Society and sponsored by CTC, CNC and CIDIC, the aim of the ILF is to give to the various actors of the Leather World the opportunity to exchange, to share their experiences and to cross fertilize the reflection of each other. 100 VIPs have joined and it has been a brilliant success around 4 round tables:

- Leather experts for tomorrow – Knowledge management
- Research priorities and proposal for a worldwide research network
- Leather markets and poisoning of leather
- Positive communication and crisis communication

Leather Commissions

14 March 2008

Organised by Bernard VITTEAU – CTC and Antoine MESSAGIO - Steiner

- Topics
- Formaldehyde – Benjamin DESAYMARD Tannerie Nouvelle PECHDO
 - Leather article labelling in Europe – Nathalie HUSTACHE-MATHIEU CTC
 - Azoïque dyes – Guy NOTHEAUX - Steiner
 - Chemical Data Base for the tanning industry – Régis LETY - CTC

26 October 2007

Organized by Jean Pierre ROSSET (Tannery BCS) and Jean-Noel Barron (Tannery Annonay) at CTC LYON

Topics

- Nanoparticules – Anne Laure HANS (CTC)
- REACH – Thierry PONCET (CTC)
- UV finishing – Tilo Schumacher, Giovanni Bazzano and Emmanuel Chenavier (Langro Chemie)

17 March 2007

Organized by Jean Pierre ROSSET (Tannery BCS) and Jean-Noel Baron (Tannery Annonay) at CTC LYON

Topics

- Tannery Chemical Data base – Régis LETY (CTC)
- White spots and leather – Anne-Laure HANS (CTC)
- The reptiles specificities – Robert LYONNET and Patrice JOLY (Gordon Choisy)

Local Events

- North-Est Area
Visit of FAURECIA, a car seat manufacture
Leather and Adhesive – Jerome ISSARTEL (CTC)

- **South-Est Area**
16 May 2008. Visit of STAUBLI, Spraying Technics for Finishing– Monsieur VACHER – De VILBIS
- **North -West Area**
13 December 2007
Visit of a dyeing producer - STEINER
Dyeing manufacturing – Guy NOTHEAUX and Antoine MESSAGGIO (STEINER)
- **South -West Area**
Productivity improvement in the tanning industry – Benjamin DESAYMARD Tannery PECHDO

AFICTIC Officers - 2008

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Marie-Claude GAZAROSSIAN – CTC

Treasurer

Stellio CAPUZZI – Indigo Chimie

Treasurer Assistant

Patrice JOLY – Gordon Choisy

AQEIC - Spain

Main activities carried out by the Spanish Leather Association (AQEIC) in 2007

- A list of international experts who could take part in the International Leather Forum in Paris on May of 2007 was sent to Mr Williams (IULTCS Secretary).
- Attendance of AQEIC in the combined meeting of IULTCS IUC, IUP, IUF Commissions and CEN TC/289 WG 1, WG 2 and WG 3 held in St Gallen on the 18th January represented by Dr Adzet
- AQEIC proposes to Mr Xavier Marginet as new Chairman of the Working Group WG1 of the CEN/TC 289.

SEMINAR 2007

- Seminar on “Impact of the new regulations on the leather sector” held in Igualada the 12 of March with 40 attendants approximately. The following communications were presented:
“REACH – Starting Point”
“REACH – Past and Future challenges for the European Leather Industry”
“Taxes reductions for helping R+D projects “. Possibilities
“Footwear import controls in the EEC.”

During the seminar all the attendants visited the facilities for the LIFE project “Grape Tannins”, the directors of the project informed to visitors the progress of the project.

56th CONGRESS OF AQEIC

- Congress held in Cartagena during May, 4/5, 2007. The attendance was around 48 people
In the Congress 9 technical communications were presented. During the opening session Dr. José Antonio Franco Leemhuis presented a lecture about “*Innovation as competitiveness*”.

The 9 communications were:

“Beamhouse process. General review and important items to take in consideration.”

“Upgrade possibilities for the tallow oils from beamhouse”

“Management of raw hides wastes. Alternatives”

“Influences of the fatliquoring on the leather aging and on Cr VI formation” (part I and Part II)

“Environmental challenge for the future. New developments of dyes for leather finishing”.

“Inter-laboratory study on formaldehyde determination by HPLC”

“Influence of mechanical operations (stretching) on the leather thermal stability”

“Professionalism in the economy family size company”

Miscellaneous

- Members of AQEIC Board attended to 29th IULTCS Congress held in Washington, introducing the preliminary steps for the 31st IULTCS Congress, for the 2011 in Valencia (Spain)
- Members of AQEIC Board assist to the visit of Dr. Rajamani, in September 2007. During his stay in Spain was invited to visit Tannery School of Igualada, Waste water treatment plant in Igualada and Lorca, Basf-Curtex in Valencia, INPELSA in Canals (Valencia) INESCOP (Elda) and CSIC (Barcelona).

DETEK – Turkey (from M. Ergun UTKU)

DETEK (Turkish Leather Technologist and Chemist Society) reports that during the period of March – September 2008 it realized following activities:

- 1) Preparation of Expert Report for a Fur Company with regards to the calculation of the chemical usage ratios in Leather.
- 2) An Environmental Working Group has been established in order to establish representation of the Society within the Turkish Government-Ministry of Environmental Affairs.
- 3) Participation to the status review and analysis meeting in the Usak City region.
- 4) Works of translation of Leather Standards in to Turkish Language.
- 5) Organization of a Society Members Dinner Meeting under title “Leather Industry – Is the businesses shrinking or is there a change going on?”
- 6) Preparation Works for a workshop (full weekend) namely “Search for new knowledgeable approaches on Leather Technology within Education and the Sector” which is to be held in October 2008.
- 7) A hand-book preparation Project together with direct participation of the Turkish Government-Ministry of Environmental Affairs with regards to the Leather disposal.
- 8) Preparation of a panel organized cooperatively with Ekoteks on “Importance of sectoral requirement and leather standard methods to define: Solutions from producer to user”

Central Latin America

Activities of ACOLCUR (Colombia) (from Juan Manuel Salazar, Presidente ACOLCUR)

ACOLCUR, has been able to maintain its activity during the past year, even if the economic situation of the industry has not improve due to the high revaluation of our currency that has made our industry less competitive in the international market.

Our number of membership is stable finally after few years of membership reduction; at the moment our membership is close to 96 members.

As a policy of our society we have kept our membership payments to the IULTCS up to date.

As a society, we continue to be active in various scenarios related to the standardization process, being active participants of the committees of the Colombian Normalization Institution affiliated to ISO called ICONTEC.

We have managed to built a credibility on the Society and at the same time a credibility to the IULTCS standards, in a way in which all the IUF, IUP, IUC methods that are ISO, have been taken as a Colombian standard under the ICONTEC system.

We have kept our environmental committee very active taking part supporting the efforts of the Leather Chamber, of the National Association of Industries in the government process of homologation of our environmental laws.

We organized a course that was given by SENAI to our members and to the technical personnel of the various environmental agencies of the government on a main topic on how to do a sample procedure, sample conservation for characterizing a tannery effluent.

Presently we are working with a government agency on producing a manual of guidance of how to carry out a sample procedure of tannery effluents.

Our magazine has drop down from four issues a year to two issues, due to the enormous difficulties that we are encountering for covering the publication costs.

Colombia continues to be a wet blue exporting country, about 60% of our leather is being exported as wet blue, so that the amount of chemical companies having business has come down drastically and this phenomenon has affected our incomes

We have continue organizing our yearly meetings, that still run during three days. Last year we organized our XIV meeting having as main topic for the congress “sustainability within the tanning Industry”. This topic was chosen due to the necessity of reviewing the way in which the business is managed in order to make it profitable. Our congress was held in Guarne, Antioquia close to Medellín between November 29-30, 2007.

During the present year we did not organize our yearly meeting in order to promote the FLAQTIC Congress, we expect to have an important group assisting the present Congress.

At the same time during our past general assembly it was approved unanimously by our member to propose COLOMBIA as the next location for the FLAQTIC congress. This proposal will be fully supported at our next FLAQTIC Executive Meeting. Presently we have support from the National Association of Industries and the Ministry of Commerce and Tourism.

This present year, we have worked on setting up or web page, that has been running for few months and that we kindly invite you to visit at www.ACOLCUR.ORG .

We have a new executive committee elected that have as officers:

President: Juan Manuel Salazar

Vice-President: Arbens Doncel

Secretary: Gloria Inés Diaz

Treasurer: Carlos Ricaurte

Annex B

IUC/IUF/IUP Commissions and CEN TC289 Working Group meetings

2008 meetings: Milan, 13th March 2008 & FILK, Freiberg, 10th September 2008

Background information

The IUC, IUF and IUP Commissions of IULTCS work together with ISO

- ISO recognises IULTCS as an International Standardising Body
- ISO has agreed that IULTCS is responsible for developing ISO test methods for leather

The IUC, IUF and IUP Commissions hold their meetings together with the Working Groups of the European CEN TC289 “Leather” and develop jointly ISO / IU / EN Standards.

A new test method is developed in 4 steps:

- 1) Working item
 - a proposed new test method, discussed and revised at the IU Commission meetings.
- 2) Draft Standard
 - proposed new test method sent by ISO to all countries for technical comments.
 - proposed new test method placed on the IULTCS website (www.iultcs.org) for IU members to download and comment.
- 3) Final Draft Standard
 - IU Commissions review the comments on the Draft Standard and the test method modified.
 - test method send out by ISO to all countries for a final “yes” or “no” acceptance vote.
- 4) ISO / IU Standard
 - if > 75% vote “yes” then it is accepted as an official ISO / IU Standard
 - test method published by ISO

IUC – Chemical test methods

New official EN / ISO / IU Standards recently published (* Updates of existing Standards)

- *EN ISO 4044 / IUC 3 Preparation of chemical samples
- *EN ISO 4045 / IUC 11 Determination of pH value & difference figure of an aqueous extract
- *EN ISO 4048 / IUC 4 Determination of substances soluble in dichloromethane
- EN ISO 17075 / IUC 18 Determination of chromium VI content in leather
- EN ISO 17226-1 / IUC 19-1 Part 1: Determination of formaldehyde content of leather by HPLC
- EN ISO 17226-2 / IUC 19-2 Part 2: Determination of formaldehyde content of leather by colorimetric analysis

New Standard test methods:- after reviewing comments ready for the final voting stage:

- EN ISO FDIS 5398-2 / IUC 8-2 Chemical determination of chromic oxide content, Part 2: Quantification by colorimetric determination
- ISO CEN TS 17234 / IUC 20 Determination of azo colorants in dyed leather
- prEN ISO FDIS 27587 / IUC 26 Determination of free formaldehyde in process auxiliaries

New chemical test methods to be sent out for comments:

- prEN ISO DIS 17072-1 / IUC 27-1 Part 1: Determination of extractable metal content in leather
- prEN ISO DIS 17072-2 / IUC 27-2 Part 2: Determination of total metal content in leather
- prEN ISO DIS xxxxx Determination of free and ethoxylated nonylphenol in leather

Proposals for new work items (WI) - in preparation:

- 1) Determination of organotin compounds in leather
- 2) Determination of biocides in leather
- 3) Determination of tanning content in vegetable extracts
- 4) ISO WI 17234-2 / IUC 20-2 Determination of azo colorants in dyed leather, Part 2: Determination of 4-aminoazobenzene
- 5) ISO WI 17226-3 / IUC 19-3 Formaldehyde in leather, Part 3: Determination of formaldehyde emitted from leather (automotive method)

IUP – Physical test methods

New official EN / ISO / IU Standards recently published

- EN ISO 23910 / IUP 44 Measurement of stitch tear resistance
- EN ISO 26082 / IUP 53 Determination of soiling for automotive leather
- (Proposed title change to: Determination of soiling by Martindale method)

New Standard test methods:- after comments ready for the final voting stage:

- prEN ISO FDIS 26081 / IUP 50 Determination of soiling for domestic and contract upholstery leather
- (Proposed title change to: Determination of soiling by rotary tumbling method)

5 year review of existing Standard test methods:

19 existing physical test methods have been subject to a 5 year ISO/CEN revision.

Following comments from ISO and CEN voting:

- 11 have been confirmed without changes,
- 6 will be revised
- 2 will be decided after more data is available.

Re-confirmed with no changes:

- EN ISO 2417 / IUP 7 Static absorption of water
- EN ISO 2418 / IUP 2 Sampling location
- EN ISO 2420 / IUP 5 Apparent density
- EN ISO 2598 / IUP 4 Thickness
- EN ISO 3377-2 / IUP 8 Tear strength, Part 2: Double-edge tear
- EN ISO 3378 / IUP 12 Grain cracking

EN ISO 3380 / IUP 16	Shrinkage temperature
EN ISO 17227 / IUP 35	Dry heat resistance
EN ISO 17229 / IUP 42	Water vapour absorption
EN ISO 17233 / IUP 29	Cold crack of surface coatings
EN ISO 17236 / IUP 43	Extension set

Changes / updates proposed:

EN ISO 3376 / IUP 6	Tensile strength
EN ISO 3377-1 / IUP 40	Tear strength; Part 1: Single edge
EN ISO 5402 / IUP 20	Flex resistance
EN ISO 5403 / IUP 10	Water resistance of flexible leather
(- proposed to make ISO 5403 into 2 parts, Bally & Maeser methods)	
EN ISO 5404 / IUP 11	Water resistance of heavy leather
* EN ISO 14268 / IUP 15	Water vapour permeability
EN ISO 17186 / IUP 41	Surface coating thickness
* EN ISO 17235 / IUP 36	Softness

(* Needed more data to support change)

Proposed test methods in development:

- **EN ISO DIS 5403-2 / IUP 10-2** Part 2: Measurement of water resistance of leather by angular flexing

(The plan is to change the current EN ISO 5403 to Part 1: Measurement of water resistance of leather by repeated linear compression)

- Stiffness of leather (VDA 230-209)
- Abrasion with Martindale using the ball plate (VDA 230-211)
- Area shrinkage (change ISO 17227 / IUP 35 to be called “Dimensional stability” and include other test conditions - °C, % rh)
- Soiling and cleanability (update ISO 26082 / IUP 53 to include cleaning procedures)

IUF – Fastness test methods

Standard test methods in preparation for the final formal voting stage (* Updates of existing Standards)

*EN ISO 11643 / IUF 434	Colour fastness of small samples to solvents
*EN ISO 11644 / IUF 470	Determination of adhesion of finish to leather

5 year review of existing Standard test methods:

5 existing methods (rubbing / perspiration / water / ageing / crocking) are due for a 5 year revision in 2008.

ISO and CEN has currently circulated all 5 asking for comments or re-confirmation.

Next IUC / IUF / IUP Commission meeting:

13th March 2009 at UNI in Milan, Italy.