



GLOBAL ALLIANCE *for* FAIR TEXTILE TRADE

More than 90 Trade Groups From 49 Countries Supporting Fair Trade for a Safer World – www.fairtextiletrade.org

Euratex and GAFTT Call for Immediate WTO Action

July 27, 2004

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND – Representatives of the Global Alliance for Fair Textile Trade (GAFTT) and Euratex representing in total 65 countries, both developing and developed, met in Geneva on 26th and 27th July to further discuss the crisis in international textile and clothing trade in the run-up to January 1st 2005 when all quotas are scheduled to be eliminated and to brief their respective government missions in Geneva.

In this context they welcomed recent initiatives by the Governments of Mauritius and Bangladesh towards the Director General of WTO to address the crisis associated with the pending phase out of quotas. The group also welcomed as an important development the scheduling of a Head of Delegations meeting at the WTO on August 3rd, 2004 to address this critical issue.

However, strong concern was expressed over the fact that certain key countries were not invited to the meeting next week. These countries include a number of the largest textile and apparel exporting nations, as well as many countries whose economies are heavily dependent upon this sector for substantial export earnings and employment.

The group called on the Director General of the WTO to ensure that many of these additional countries be involved in the critical discussion of August 3rd.

“For Nepal, this is a matter of life or death. This is not a matter of one industry surviving or not but whether our national economy can withstand such a terrible loss. Already, our industry’s exports have fallen by two-thirds in the last year. We have already seen thousands of workers lose their jobs. The WTO must act decisively to preserve our remaining jobs and the promise of fair trade for our workers,” Shaym Kehtani, 1st Vice President, Garment Association- Nepal.

Ziya Sukun, Executive Director of the ITKIB Association, a Turkish textile and garment trade association from Istanbul said, “The Euratex and the European collaboration and the strong presence of the Global Textile Alliance in Geneva sends a clear message to WTO. The global textile industry is

united stronger than ever around the Istanbul Declaration and in its desire to solve the international crisis of the quota phaseout. It must be solved now or the WTO will have to deal millions of people losing their jobs, thousands of factories closing down, corporations going bankrupt in dozens of countries on five continents.”

Cass Johnson, President of the National Council of Textile Organizations, stated, “The exclusion from the meeting next week of many countries which are deeply dependent on textile and apparel exports is troubling. The U.S. textile industry exports billions of dollars of textile products to Mexico and the nations of Central America, developing countries that employ hundreds of thousands of textile and apparel workers. None of those countries is invited despite the fact that they are among the world’s largest apparel exporters. For a fair and balanced hearing, we urge that the Heads of Delegation meeting be open to all interested countries.”

Auggie Tantillo, Executive Director of the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC), said, “This meeting is a critical first step in moving towards a much needed solution to crisis associated with the quota phase-out. It is time for countries to stand up and be counted. Failure to act now will mean massive job displacement in practically all countries involved in textiles and apparel production, including the United States.”

While restating their commitment to open world markets under conditions of free and fair trade, industry representatives also reaffirmed their grave concern that the final phase-out of quotas would lead rapidly to a situation in which major markets will be dominated by only one country, China. The industry representatives reiterated their call for an emergency meeting of all WTO members in September to prevent the expected massive disruption of global textile and apparel markets and the loss of 30 million jobs worldwide.

List of countries currently invited to the Heads of Delegation meeting: Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, the Dominican Republic, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lesotho, Mauritius, Norway, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States

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You may also visit the GAFTT website at www.fairtextiletrade.org.

Textile and Clothing Trade Associations Endorsing the Istanbul Declaration as of July 19, 2004.

Argentina – Federacion Argentina de Industrias Textiles (FADIT-FITA)
Austria – Association of the Austrian Clothing Industry
Austria – Fachverband der Textilindustrie Osterreichs (Die Textilindustrie)
Austria – Eurocoton
Austria – Vereinigung Textilindustrie
Austria – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)
Bangladesh – Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA)
Bangladesh – Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BKMEA)
Bangladesh – The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry
Bangladesh – Bangladesh Terry Towel & Linen Manufacturers and Exporters Assoc.
Belgium – Federation Belge de L’Industrie Textile (FEBELTEX)
Belgium – Eurocoton
Belgium – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)
Belgium – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)
Bolivia – Asociacion Nacional de Textileros de Bolivia
Bolivia – Federacion Textil Andina
Botswana – Botswana Export Development and Investment Authority (BEDIA)
Bulgaria – Association of Apparel and Textile Exporters in Bulgaria
Bulgaria – Bulgarian Association of Textile and Clothing
Bulgaria – Bulgarian Industrial Chamber
Bulgaria – Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Chile – Instituto Textil de Chile – Asociacion Gremial
Colombia – Asociacion Colombiana de Productores Textiles (ASCOLTEX)
Colombia – Federacion Textil Andina
Czech Republic – Association of Textile-Clothing-Leather Industries
Dominican Republic – Dominican Free Zones Association (ADZONA)
Denmark – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)
Ecuador – Asociacion Textil del Ecuador (AITE)
Ecuador – Federacion Textil Andina
France – Eurocoton
France – Federation Francaise des Industries Lainiere et Cotonniere (FFILC)
France – Union Francaise des Industries de l’Habillement (UFIH)
France – Union des Industries Textiles (UIT)
France – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)
France – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)
Germany – Eurocoton
Germany – Industrievereinigung Garne – Gewebe Technische Textilien
Germany – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)
Ghana – Gold Coast of Ghana
Greece – Association des Industries Cotonnieres de Grece
Greece – Hellenic Fashion Industry Association
Greece – Eurocoton

Greece – Panhellenic Union of Cotton Ginners and Exporters
Italy – Associazione Italiana Industrie della Filliera Tessile Abbigliamento (AIIFTA)
Italy – Associazione Tessile Italiana (ATI)
Italy – Eurocoton
Italy – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)
Italy – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)
Ivory Coast – Agency for the Promotion of Exports (APEX-CI)
Kenya – Kenya Apparel Manufacturers Exporters Association
Kenya – Kenya Association of Manufacturers – Textile Sector (KAM)
Latvia – Association of Textile and Clothing Industry
Lesotho – Lesotho Textile Exporters Association
Lithuania – Lithuanian Apparel and Textile Industry Association
Madagascar – Madagascar Export Promotion Association (GEFP)
Mauritius – Mauritius Export Processing Zone Association (MEPZA)
Mauritius – Mauritius-US Business Association (MUSBA)
Mexico – Camera Nacional de la Industria Textil (CANAINTEX)
Mexico – Cámara Nacional de la Industria del Vestido (CNIV)
Mexico – Cámara Mexicana de la Industria Textil Central
Mexico – Cámara Textil de Occidente
Namibia – Namibian Investment Authority
Nepal – Garment Association of Nepal (GAN)
Netherlands – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)
Norway – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)
Paraguay – Cámara Textil Paraguaya
Peru – Comité de Confecciones de la Sociedad Nacional de Industrias del Perú
Peru – Comite Textil de la Sociedad Nacional de Industrias del Peru
Peru – Federacion Textil Andina
Philippines – Confederation of Garments Exporters of the Philippines
Poland – The Gdynia Cotton Association
Poland – Polish Textile and Clothing Chamber
Poland – Polish Chamber of Textile Industry
Poland – Union of Employers of Textile Industry
Portugal – Federation of Portuguese Textile and Clothing Industry (FITVEP)
Portugal – Textile and Apparel Association of Portugal (ATP)
Senegal – Agency for the Promotion of Investments and Exports (APIX)
Slovenia – Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, Textiles, Clothing and Leather Processing Association
South Africa – Clothing Trade Council of South Africa (CloTrade)
South Africa – Export Council for the Clothing Industry in South Africa
South Africa – South African Textile Industry Export Council (SATIEC)
South Africa – Textile Federation of South Africa (TEXFED)
Spain – Agrupacion Espanola de Desmotadores de Algodon (AEDA)
Spain – Asociacion Industrial de Proceso Algodonero (AITPA)
Spain – Consejo Intertextil Espanol
Spain – Eurocoton

Spain – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)

Sri Lanka – Joint Apparel Association Forum

Sri Lanka – National Apparel Exporters Association

Swaziland – Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA)

Swaziland – Swaziland Textile Exporters Association (STEA)

Switzerland – Eurocoton

Switzerland – Swiss Spinning Committee

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

Switzerland – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)

Tanzania – Tanzania Investment Center (TIC)

Turkey – Turkish Textile and Raw Materials Exporters Association (ITKIB Textiles)

Turkey – Turkish Ready Wear and Garments Exporters Association (ITKIB Apparel)

Turkey – Turkish Clothing Manufacturers Association (TGSD)

Turkey – Turkish Textile Employers Association (TUTSIS)

Turkey – Eurocoton

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

Turkey – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)

United Kingdom – Joint Comte. of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)

United Kingdom – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)

United States – American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC)

United States – American Yarn Spinners Association (AYSA)

United States – National Cotton Council (NCC)

United States – National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)

United States – National Textile Association (NTA)

Uruguay – Asociacion de Industrias Textiles del Uruguay

Venezuela – Asociacion Textil Venezolana (ATV)

Venezuela – Federacion Textil Andina

Zambia – Export Board of Zambia

Zambia – Textile Producers Association of Zambia