

Minutes from the seventh meeting of the Textile and Footwear working group between the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ) and Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry of The European Commission (DG ENTR)

Brussels, 17th November 2008

**Participants**

- § **Chinese side:** QIN Yuan (AQSIQ); ZHU Changqing (AQSIQ); WU Xiongying (CIQ); ZHENG Yuying (ISCTI)
- § **EU side:** GIRÃO, Luis Filipe (DG ENTR); KAIZELER, Ivone (DG ENTR); PIOVESANA, Regina (DG TRADE); LAKIN William (EURATEX); MARCHI, Francesco (EURATEX); CHEN, Zhuo Hua (EURATEX); HOUILLON, Laurent (IFTH); DASCOT, Martine (IFTH).

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Summary

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In the framework of the Consultation Mechanism on Industrial Products and WTO/TBT between the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ) and the Directorates-General of Enterprise and Industry of European Commission, the China-EU Textiles Working Group held its 7<sup>th</sup> meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Brussels.

Since the latest meeting of the working group in Beijing in November 2007, there was a substantial progress as regards the comparative analysis of Chinese and EU/international standards applicable to textiles and clothing products. The most important Chinese textile and clothing standards were translated into English and compared with the equivalent European and International standards and with EU legislation in force. The Regulatory Dialogue meeting provided the opportunity to present the main results of the in-depth comparative analysis study which highlights the differences between Chinese and EU/international standards and provides a set of recommendations. Textile standards experts from both sides were present and could discuss in detail the study findings and recommendations.

The parties agreed that the in-depth study carried out (with EUCTP support) gives a significant contribution to the work of the Regulatory Dialogue. It enhances the understanding of Chinese and European stakeholder's of Chinese and EU/international standards applying to textile and clothing products. It gives important information for future collaboration on harmonization of technical regulations and standards at international level and can therefore contribute to the reduction of technical barriers to trade.

The EU part has explained its comments on two recent Chinese WTO notifications one on labeling of textile products and the other one on moisture regains in textiles. The Chinese side has provided its opinion on this issue. The EU part informed the Chinese side of the standardization planning of CEN working group textiles.

On the request of the Chinese side, the EU side presented the European chemical legislation of relevance for textile and footwear products.

Finally, on the long standing issue of raw silk quality testing, the EU asked AQSIO to consider the possibility to remove "raw silk" from the compulsory entry/exit inspection catalogue i.e. to remove the compulsory nature of the raw silk quality test/quality export certificate.

November 17th, 2008 in Brussels, Belgium.