



Work programme of the social partners in the textiles and clothing sector for 2006

1. Introduction

Euratex and ETUF:TCL, social partners at European level in the textiles and clothing sector, anxious to play their part fully and also wishing to further improve the quality of their sectoral dialogue, adopt the work programme for 2006 set out below.

This programme, supported by the social partners at national level, is also informed by a desire for better interlinking between the autonomous sectoral social dialogue at European level and, *inter alia*, the dialogues at national level.

It follows on from the Commission Communications of 26/06/2002 entitled «*The European social dialogue, a force for innovation and change*» and of 12/08/2004 entitled «*Partnership for change in an enlarged Europe – Enhancing the contribution of European social dialogue*».

It is structured around four chapters: commercial, industrial, social and enlargement policies. It therefore concentrates on the main challenges facing the textiles and clothing industry in a post-ATC environment. However, the programme does not constitute an exhaustive list; additions could be made, if necessary.

Euratex and ETUF:TCL agree as follows:

1. **to seek to forward recommendations/joint opinions** to the European and national decision-makers concerning the follow-up to:
 - > the textiles and clothing negotiations within the World Trade Organisation; developments in other trade issues such as trade with China or marking of origin;
 - > the Communications: of 13/10/2004 proposing industrial, social and regional measures to promote competitiveness in the textiles and clothing sector, and of 5/10/2005 on the new industrial policy; and the implementation of the recommendations “with a social dimension” of the High-Level Group of 30/06/2004;
2. **to continue to give their support to the development of social dialogue in the textiles and clothing sector** in the new Member States and the candidate countries through the implementation of the “integrated project on capacity building” of these social partners, a project which will enable them to participate fully in the European social dialogue;
4. **to ensure wider dissemination of the “textiles and clothing public procurement guide”** produced in partnership under the PROMPTEX initiative; to prepare/participate actively in the conference on this subject to be organised by the Commission in the second half of the year;
5. **to complete their work on the implementation and verification of the “framework agreement/code of conduct”** concluded in September 1997, through:
 - > the signing of the code by the social partners in the new Member States and the candidate countries (e.g. on the sidelines of the closing conference for the “integrated project”);
 - > the setting up of a joint editorial group (Euralex/ETUF:TCL) to devise a framework on this subject on the basis of the experience/lessons drawn from the “ILO/Turkey” pilot project;
6. **to raise the profile** of the social dialogue at European level in the textiles and clothing sector;
7. **to conduct three joint vocational training projects** in the European textiles and clothing sector (media pool, observatories, classification of functions);
8. as a follow-up in particular: to the Commission Communication of 31/03/2005 on restructuring, and to the Commission’s textiles and clothing conference planned for March/April 2006 : **to identify, as part of a joint project** (Social dialogue line for 1/03/06), good practices in the field of anticipation/management of industrial changes and their social consequences not only in the textiles and clothing sector but also in other branches/regions, and **to draw specific lessons** with a view to the negotiation of a Euralex/ETUF **reference framework** on this subject. The experts will be chosen jointly by the two parties.
