



South American Trade Associations Endorse Istanbul Declaration

Associations from 31 Countries Have Now Made Formal Endorsements

April 13, 2004

WASHINGTON, DC – The Federacion Textil Andina (FTA) – the Andean Textile Federation – endorsed the Istanbul Declaration on April 6, 2004.

The FTA represents textile industry associations from the Andean nations of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

The new endorsements raise the total of trade associations endorsing the Istanbul Declaration to 40, the number of countries represented to 31, and the number of continents represented to four – North America, South America, Europe and Africa.

The Istanbul Declaration is a letter to the Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) calling for an emergency meeting of the WTO and a delay in the phase-out of worldwide textile and apparel quotas.

According to studies, through the use of massive export subsidies and other illegal trade practices, China and a few other countries are poised to monopolize world trade in textiles and apparel if quotas are removed as scheduled on January 1, 2005. Up to 30 million jobs around the world are expected to be lost.

Many developing and least developed countries dependent on textile and apparel export markets face economic ruin if importers and retailers shift orders to take advantage of Chinese subsidies.

In the United States, over the last two years, importers increased their orders from China by 830 percent in 29 apparel categories where China was removed from quota. Chinese market share of those products rose from 9 percent to 60 percent and continues to grow.

Ziya Sukun of the Turkish textile and apparel trade association, ITKIB said, “We are grateful for the determination demonstrated by all members of the Andean Textile Federation to address the threat posed by an uncontrolled export surge from China.”

American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC) Washington Coordinator Auggie Tantillo said, “Every national textile association in this coalition faces a three-dimensional threat from China’s highly subsidized export machine. Coalition members face the loss of significant market share in their own domestic market, in first-world markets, and in critical developing-world markets.”

National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) President Cass Johnson said, “China is today illegally subsidizing its textile and clothing exports to a degree never before imagined. Textile and apparel groups around the world see the writing on the wall and are now rising up behind the Declaration and demanding that their governments and the WTO act.”

Contacts:

ITKIB – Ziya Sukun – (212) 398-6241 or itkibusa@aol.com

AMTAC – Lloyd Wood – (202) 452-0866 or lwood@amtacdc.org

NCTO – Cass Johnson – (202) 756-1422 or cjohnson@ncto.org

###

**Textile and Clothing Trade Associations
Endorsing the Istanbul Declarations as of April 1, 2004.**

Austria – Fachverband der Textilindustrie Österreichs (Die Textilindustrie)
Austria – Eurocoton
Belgium – Febeltex
Belgium – Eurocoton
Bolivia – Asociacion Nacional de Textileros de Bolivia
Bolivia – Federacion Textil Andina
Botswana – Botswana Export Development and Investment Authority (BEDIA)
Colombia – Asociacion Colombiana de Productores Textiles (ASCOLTEX)
Colombia – Federacion Textil Andina
Czech Republic – Eurocoton
Ecuador – Asociacion Textil del Ecuador (AITE)
Ecuador – Federacion Textil Andina
France – Eurocoton
Germany – Eurocoton
Ghana – Gold Coast of Ghana
Greece – Eurocoton
Italy – Associazione Italiana Industrie della Filliera Tessile Abbigliamento (AIIFTA)
Italy – Associazione Tessile Italiana (ATI)
Italy – Eurocoton
Ivory Coast – Agency for the Promotion of Exports (APEX-CI)
Kenya – Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM)
Lesotho – Lesotho Textile Exporters Association
Madagascar – Madagascar Export Promotion Association (GEFP)
Mauritius – Mauritius Export Processing Zone Association (MEPZA)
Mexico – Camera Nacional de la Industria Textil (CANAINTEX)
Namibia – Namibian Investment Authority
Peru – Comite Textil de la Sociedad Nacional de Industrias del Peru
Peru – Federacion Textil Andina
Poland – The Gdynia Cotton Association
Poland – Polish Textile and Clothing Chamber
Poland – Polish Chamber of Textile Industry
Poland – Union of Employers of Textile Industry
Poland – Eurocoton
Senegal – Agency for the Promotion of Investments and Exports (APIX)
Slovenia – Eurocoton
South Africa – South African Clothing Industry Export Council (SACIEC)
South Africa – South African Textile Industry Export Council (SATIEC)
South Africa – Textile Federation of South Africa (TEXFED)
Spain – Eurocoton
Swaziland – Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA)
Tanzania – Tanzania Investment Center (TIC)

Turkey – Turkish Textile and Raw Materials Exporters Association (ITKIB Textiles)
Turkey – Turkish Ready Wear and Garments Exporters Association (ITKIB Clothing)
Turkey – Turkish Clothing Manufacturers Association (TGSD)
Turkey – Turkish Textile Employers Association (TUTSIS)
Turkey – Eurocoton
United States – American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC)
United States – National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)
United States – National Textile Association (NTA)
Venezuela – Asociacion Textil Venezolana (ATV)
Venezuela – Federacion Textil Andina
Zambia – Textile Producers Association of Zambia