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PRESS RELEASE

The Chairman of the European Confederation of the Footwear Industry (CEC) will attend the 18th UITIC Congress

The UITIC (International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians) is pleased to announce that Jean-Pierre Renaudin, recently elected Chairman of the European Confederation of the Footwear Industry (CEC) in June 2013 and Chairman of the French Footwear Federation (FFC), will be attending its 18th UITIC Congress, which will be held from 13 to 16 November 2013 in Guangzhou, China.

The theme of this year's conference is *"Social Responsibility: a challenge for the footwear industry"*. Its aim will therefore be to demonstrate that social responsibility can be a source of innovation and opportunity for the footwear industry, in order to meet high social and environmental expectations on the market.

"The participation of the European Confederation of the Footwear Industry (CEC) is only natural considering the program. European footwear companies have long understood the significance of corporate social responsibility (CSR), which will be the central focus of this major event", affirmed Jean-Pierre Renaudin in an interview with Yves Morin, President of the UITIC. *"To my knowledge, this is the first time that such an international event will address these issues for our industries. And the fact that China is the host is a strong signal that the whole global industry of footwear and more broadly of fashion needs to hear"*, he added. China is the world's leading producer of footwear, with 10.5 billion pairs produced in 2011 of a total of 18.4 billion produced around the world.

The organisation of the 18th UITIC Congress has been entrusted to CLIA, the China Leather Industry Association. Nearly 400 participants are expected to attend this event to hear presentations by some thirty international footwear and CSR experts.

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> 18th UITIC Congress website <http://uitic-congress.chinaleather.org>

About the UITIC – www.uitic.org

Present in 27 countries, the UITIC aims to develop technical knowledge in the footwear industry, in particular by organising international conferences and setting up information exchanges between its members. The UITIC groups together national associations of footwear technicians, professional organisations and research centres. Since 2010, its President has been Yves Morin, CEO of CTC (www.ctcgroupe.com).