



**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LEATHER
TECHNOLOGISTS AND CHEMISTS SOCIETIES**

Minutes of the IUR Commission meeting Paris September 19th

The IUR commission was created by the Executive Committee of the IULTCS in order to identify priorities for pre-competitive research programs and to participate in research coordination between industrial research centres and also fundamental research.

The IUR commission is also involved during the coming year in the preparation of the International Leather Forum scheduled in Paris 16/17th September 2007.

Participants:

The members of the EC meeting of 19 September 2006 and Dietrich Tegmeyer (Lanxess), Jean-Pierre Gualino (ATC).

- Everybody agrees that innovation is very important for the future of leather.
- Everybody agrees the importance of a right positioning of leather in its markets (image and prices).
- Everybody agrees there is a lack of fundamental and even applied research, despite of the number of Leather Research Centres.
- Funding could be a problem, but, for instance, an estimation of the R&D budget of the chemical suppliers can amount to 100 Million €
- One of the issues is that a big part of this budget was dedicated during the last years to meet the requirements of all the regulations concerning workers, consumers and environment protection.
- Beside innovation there is a need of correct labelling of leather in order that the final consumer is able to make the difference between full grain leather, corrected grain leather and splits, re-establishing an understandable price hierarchy.
- Research programs should be based on the market needs in the framework of sustainable development.
- In a first stage the IUR commission has to prepare one of the 4 round tables of the ILF. In order to do that the members societies have to establish a proposal of a list of 100 VIP representing all the actors of the Leather World as described in the graphic representation of the concept of ILF.
- The IUR commission has to prepare a questionnaire to be sent to this “selected” VIP but also to other major actors of the leather world to identify the research priorities according to their view and needs.
- A synthesis of the answers could be the basis of the discussions during the round table of the ILF, with a presentation of all major research actors identified all around the world.
- This round table should also draw the attention of the participants on existing results published during the last 20 years at the occasion of IULTCS Congresses.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Marc Folachier. **CEO**

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