



## ACTE declaration on international trade in textile and clothing sector

On 4 March 2005, ACTE Executive Committee assembled in Nottingham, and taking note that

- On 30 June 2004, the High Level Group for textiles and clothing presented its first recommendations in the form of a report entitled "The challenge of 2005 – European textiles and clothing in a quota free environment";
- On 13 October 2004, the European Commission in its Communication "*Textiles and Clothing after 2005*" COM(2004)668 adopted the recommendations made by the High Level Group for textiles and clothing;
- On 13 December 2004, the Regulation CEE 2200/2004 was published in the Official Journal of the European Community, amending regulations CEE 3030/93 and CEE 3285/94, concerning common rules on imports for some textile products originating from third countries and which abrogates the normative provisions of the Multifiber Treaty.

And further noting that

- On 13 December 2004, a *Petition for a transparent, fair and sustainable trade in the textile and clothing sector* was presented and signed by the most important industry associations and workers organisation, at Italian and European level (Euratex, ETUC:TCL).

### ACTE hereby declares

To accept the contents of these documents, and invites all Member States to cooperate with the European Commission, to make sure that after 1 January 2005:

- Imports originating from extra European countries will be effectively and constantly monitored, both in quantities and prices, in each Member State;
- Criteria and procedures will be defined, in order to enable appropriate safeguard measures each time abnormal volume increases or price reductions are observed;
- The EU pledges itself to use all appropriate instruments to fight against unfair commercial practices, with particular regard to those practices provoking significant market distortions;
- The EU increases its action so that all countries may adopt international labour standards;
- The EU pledges itself to introduce a compulsory marking of origin for textile and clothing products, in order to enable the so called "traceability" for products entirely or mainly made in a European Member State.