



## **Guimarães Protocol**

Guimarães, 13 April 1991

- To collaborate at local and business level
- To analyse a new strategy for textile policy with a view of the year 2000
- To support the regional development and diversification
- To study all forms of possible cooperation (cultural, social, businesses, universities, people, etc.)
- To increase the representativity of ACTE
- To make sure that industrial transformations are placed at the service of the development of the rest of the world

.....

### **13 April 1991**

In order to progress on the basis of specific projects and in a spirit of mutual cooperation, the Association of Municipalities of Vale do Ave (Portugal), the Urban Community of Lille (France), the Inter-municipal Economic Development Community of West Hainaut (Belgium) and the Municipality of Terrassa (Spain) have been in contact for almost a year. They have reached the conclusion that, within the framework of a broad programme of inter-regional development, it is possible to identify many spheres of common interest, not only in terms of municipal and regional policy but also in terms of business cooperation.

In the course of the preliminary conversations it was discovered that, at a time when the multi-fibre plan is almost complete and the GATT agreements are being broadly adopted, it is impossible to achieve a sound European textile policy without a functional, dynamic regional framework which is specifically favourable to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Moreover, it was discovered that there were similarities and complementary elements between regions both in terms of R&D and of training or creation, production or distribution.

Recognising these facts in regions or urban communities with an important textile and clothing sector, the entities:

- the Association of Municipalities of Vale do Ave (Portugal);
- the Urban Community of Lille (France);
- the Inter-municipal Economic Development Community of West Hainaut (Belgium); and
- the Municipality of Terrassa (Spain)

decided to create an **European Textile Collectivities Association** (ACTE) and to establish a protocol for interactive cooperation for economic and social development of the textile zones, with the following objectives :

1. To analyse a new strategy for textile policy with a view of the year 2000 in the fields of R&D, professional training, conception, production, distribution and environment. The aim of these strategies would be to provide the essential conditions for the maintenance and development of the European textile industry: creativity, quality and efficiency. Moreover, they would bear in mind the similarities, differences and complementary elements and recommend the measures to be adopted and the resources to be used.
2. To support all specific measures for cooperation between companies on their initiative or that of local and regional communities within the framework of the aims of regional development or economic diversification.
3. To study all forms of association, in particular in the spheres of culture, lifestyle, training or social relations and, above all, to establish systems for cooperation between universities, higher education centres and research laboratories. To promote exchanges between people and institutions.
4. To open up ACTE to European local administrations with important textile and clothing industries which subscribe to this protocol.
5. To endorse the experience exchange and inter-European cooperation project to be presented by the Association of Municipalities of Vale do Ave (Article 10 of the FEDER).
6. To guarantee changes in the European textile and clothing industry according to the fundamental political guidelines of the EEC. This can only be done by taking

account of the international community; the experience of the European textile industry must be placed at the service of the development of the rest of the world in a context of respect for specific regional interests and a search for new forms. Lastly, the exchange of experiences among the signatories to the protocol has made them aware of the need to prepare a Community initiative for the benefit of regions with an important textile industry inspired by the methods used by the EEC to reactivate other European economies.

Within this framework the signatories undertake to hold the first general meeting of the European textile collectivities within a year.