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## **Press Release**

8 April, 2017

### **Global Leather Coordinating Committee meets in Hong Kong**

A meeting of the Global Leather Coordinating Committee (GLCC) took place in Hong Kong on 30 March, at the APLF leather fair. There were 17 representatives present from ICHSLTA, ICT, and IULTCS. A range of topical issues were discussed and a number of common actions agreed.

GLCC has been agreeing a series of policy statements on behalf of the industry to explain and promote the industry's responsible and practical approach to issues liable to be raised by customers or in the media. Subject to some final editing, the Committee agreed statements on the traceability of hides and skins and on veterinary health certificates.

The finalised, full versions will be posted on the ICT website.

The Committee also agreed to promote the IULTCS document "IUE 12 - Guidelines for Minimum Environmental Standards" which is shortly to be published and which will define a minimum benchmark that all tanneries should be able to achieve.

For the future, the Committee agreed to consider establishing a position on Corporate Social Responsibility.

The Committee received an update on leather labelling issues, where the industry continues to press for clear and accurate regulations and enforcement; there were also updates on environmental footprinting, where work is continuing on the European modelling of the Product Environmental Footprint for leather and within the FAO facilitated LEAP (Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance) Partnership.

Regarding the complex area of chemical management, delegates agreed to co-operate in discussions with the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) initiative, to ensure that guidelines for the leather industry took full account of the specific requirements of leather. It was also agreed to share information on industry based certification schemes.

The ICT delegates reminded everyone that TILA and CLIA were jointly hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Leather Congress in Shanghai on 29 August 2017 – the day before ACLE. Further details of this key industry event can be found at: <http://www.worldleathercongress2017.com/en/>

The next GLCC meeting will be hosted by IULTCS in Shanghai on 31 August 2017, with the kind co-operation of China Leather Industry Association.

### end press release ###

The Global Leather Coordinating Committee comprises representatives of the International Council of Tanners (ICT), the International Council of Hides, Skins and Leather Traders Associations (ICHSLTA), and the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IULTCS).

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