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## PRESS RELEASE FROM GLCC

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### **GLCC MEMBERS SEE PROGRESS ON JOINT INITIATIVES**

The delegates to the Global Leather Co-ordinating Committee – from ICHSLTA, ICT and IULTCS, met for the 5<sup>th</sup> time in Lineapelle, on 9 October 2013.

The meeting provided the opportunity to review progress on a number of on-going projects jointly sponsored by the Committee's three organisations. The projects include worldwide registration and control of the International Leather Mark, construction of a centralised database of regulations and veterinary health certificates for leather, establishment of a Leather Carbon Footprint profile and EU Commission Pilot Project for Green Products, and drafting a list of Critical Substances in leather.

The ICT continues to compile its database of leather labelling standards and regulations by country, which will soon be made publicly available on the revamped ICT website. To date, there are over 60 entries to the database which also provides standard definitions for the correct labelling of leather products. The GLCC encourages the global leather industry to promote the standard definitions for leather labelling in order to protect leather's image in the marketplace.

Progress has also been made on mapping the registration of the International Leather Mark in a number of countries. The GLCC will continue to work towards full registration of the Mark in all major markets, with the goal of linking the Mark to the correct labelling of leather according to the established ICT definition.

Work on the Leather Carbon Footprint data collection project also continues with multiple tanneries interested in participation. COTANCE has successfully applied for the leather industry to be included in an EU pilot study that seeks to establish a single market for "green products". This study will seek to define Product Category Rules and System boundaries that calculate the carbon footprint for leather according to the UNIDO recommended method. This data will be used to establish the carbon footprint profile of the leather industry, ensuring the carbon emissions assigned to the industry are a direct result of the leather production process. Companies are encouraged to participate in the data collection process via a private consultant applying UNIDO protocols.

Finally, the IULTCS continues its work drafting an official document on Chemical Substances of Concern for leather products. The report will be used to ensure only appropriate chemicals are tested for, and that the right analytical techniques are used in Restricted Substances Lists developed for the leather industry. IULTCS has agreement with the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and CEN to develop test methods and documents for leather products.

The next meeting of the GLCC will be held at the Asia Pacific Leather Fair in Hong Kong in March-April 2014.

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*NOTE: The GLCC consists of delegates representing the three International organizations that operate within the leather sector – International Council of Tanners (ICT), International Council of Hide Skin & Leather Traders Associations (ICHSLTA), and International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IULTCS) – and invited guests from key organizations with leather industry interests.*