

Press release
10.10.2007



FTA
Foreign Trade Association

RETAILERS ARE RELIEVED ABOUT THE END OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS IN THE TEXTILES SECTOR

The FTA welcomes the agreement between the European Commission and the Chinese government abolishing quantitative restrictions on imports of textiles and clothing from China.

Following the removal of the import restrictions at the beginning of 2005, importers and retailers were shocked to see quotas reintroduced on a range of textile products from China in the summer of the very same year. In the past year there have been many calls for the continuation of these quotas for the year 2008 from EU manufacturers and the more protectionist EU Member States.

“Fortunately we are now in the position that we aspired to be in two years ago”, commented FTA President Ferry den Hoed. The FTA President welcomed the elimination of the quantitative restrictions, the existence of which has been hanging like a sword of Damocles over textiles importers.

In the opinion of Mr. den Hoed, the solution is the result of intensive lobbying by the FTA in Brussels having reinforced the view of EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson that a smooth transition to the liberalisation of the trade in textiles is necessary.

According to the FTA it is unfortunate, however, that in spite of the removal of quantitative restrictions, there will be a “double checking system” leading to increased administrative costs.

Contact: Stefan Wengler (tel.: +49.221.92.18.34.13)

The FTA is the association for European commerce that specialises in foreign trade issues. It is committed to achieving its goal of a true free trade environment. For 30 years it has supported its members, consisting of national trade associations and companies from all over Europe, by providing expertise and up-to-date information and by campaigning on their behalf against protectionist measures in the European and international arena.

IMPRESSUM / CONTACT

FTA - Foreign Trade Association
168, Av. De Cortenbergh
B-1000
Bruxelles

Tel: 0032-2-762 05 51
Fax: 0032-2-762 75 06
Email: info@fta-eu.org
Internet: www.fta-eu.org