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Europe importers welcome textile deal with China

DATE: 2007/10/12

BRUSSELS -- European importers on Wednesday expressed cautious welcome to the new textile agreement between the European Union (EU) and China, which replaces import quotas with joint monitoring of trade flow in 2008.

"We welcome the fact that quotas have ended, but the double checking system will put administrative burden on our members, and on importers and retailers," Stuart Newman, a spokesman for the Foreign Trade Association (FTA) representing EU importers, told Xinhua.

The European Commission announced on Tuesday it had reached an agreement with China to end quota restrictions on Chinese textile imports with a joint surveillance system to monitor the trade flow next year.

The so-called "double checking system", which will operate for one year in 2008, is going to track the issuing of licenses for export in China and the importation of goods into the EU.

Following a so-called "textile war", the EU and China reached an agreement in June 2005 on resuming quotas on China's textile exports to the EU, which expires at the end of 2007.

Newman said the introduction of the monitoring system was at least a better choice than the retention of quotas as pressed for by EU textile producers and some member states.

Michael Jennings, a commission spokesman for trade, described the new system as basically data collection and double check.

"We will be sharing information with the Chinese side. It's a good opportunity for us to monitor together," he said in a telephone interview with Xinhua.

Meanwhile, Jennings warned the double checking system will not exclude the possibility of using special trade protection measures again if a surge of imports is monitored, which may replay the scene in the 2005 textile trade friction.

Newman said they will advise their members not to buy all the products from China, but look elsewhere to avoid a surge in imports.

Source: China Textile Network Company

"I don't think the monitoring system itself will affect the trade flow, but I think importers will be more cautious about importing from China than it was in 2005," he said.

Source: Xinhua

European Union/China Reach an Agreement on 2008

DATE: 2007/10/12

The European Union's (EU) special import quotas that have applied to ten categories of textile and apparel imports from China will expire at the end of 2007. The EU and China have reached an agreement to monitor 2008 import volume and export licenses issued on eight of the ten product categories, which include t-shirts, sweatshirts, men's trousers, blouses, dresses, brassieres, bed linen and flax yarn. The EU could still reintroduce quotas if trade flow in these product groups is disrupted by a surge in Chinese imports.

Source: globecotnews

Cotton Yarn Exports Slow - Imports from India Surge in Taiwan

DATE: 2007/10/12

In August, Taiwan's cotton yarn exports were weak at 4,297 tons, while imports showed additional strength at 2,897 tons. Year-to-date cotton yarn export shipments remain up 15.7 percent at 40,715.3 tons. Exports to the Mainland, the top export destination, is being maintained and are up 32.4 percent year-to-date at 23,024.4 tons. Exports to Indonesia, Vietnam and South Korea have also expanded. The August export weakness was linked to a sharp decline in shipments to Hong Kong, which dropped 32.7 percent to only 991 tons, while year-to-date shipments are down 10.6 percent. Until 2006, Hong Kong was the largest market for Taiwan's cotton yarn exports.

Taiwan's import growth is being driven by a surge in shipments from India. August imports increased 31.4 percent to 1,313 tons, while year-to-date imports are up 50.9 percent at 9,673,492 tons, which is nearly 50 percent of the total import volume.

Source: globecotnews

Major bridal conglomerate from Spain to TITAS

DATE: 2007/10/12

With efforts from Economic division of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Spain, major Spanish bridal and evening wear conglomerate Grupo Nupcial Novissima has confirmed its attendance in TITAS 2007 to place orders for the newest fabrics, embroidery, laces and other materials for bridal and evening gowns.

Because of the high quality products and innovative designs, Spain has fast become the second largest country in manufacturing bridal and evening gowns next to China. Statistics shows there are approximately 500 enterprises in the bridal and evening gown industry in Spain, among which over 77% had been established for over ten years.

From 2003 to 2005, Spain's export of bridal gowns averaged in 10 to 15 billion Euros. Export to Germany, Italy, and France takes up 45%, 28%, and 16% of total export volume respectively. The

Source: China Textile Network Company

group also exports to Americas, Japan and other countries.

Grupo Nupcial Novissima owns multiple brands including Charoperes, Elio Berhanyer, Agatha Ruiz De La Prada, Devota & Lomba, Camila Elbaz and Isabella De Parma, with 56 stores and boutiques in Spain and Portugal.

There are also sales locations in US, Mexico, France, Germany, Italy and Israel. The group produces 35,000 bridal gowns and 100,000 evening gowns annually.

In order to successfully match up Taiwan's high quality manufacturers with international companies to enter Spain and EU markets, TITAS 2007 has invited Grupo Nupcial Novissima to attend the conference to place order for silk, yarns, embroideries, and polymers suitable for bridal and evening gowns in Taiwan.

TITAS 2007 cordially invites enterprises in bridal/evening gown fabrics / trimmings and OEM/ODM apparel/accessories companies to attend and participate in the event.

Source: Taiwan Textile Federation

January - August 2007 Textile/Apparel Imports Reach 12.478 Billion USD

DATE: 2007/10/10

China's textile and apparel imports reached 12.478 billion U.S. dollars (USD) during the January through August 2007 period, reflecting only 4.43 percent growth from the previous year and compares to exports of 111.73 billion USD during the same period. 11.248 billion of that total came in textiles. Asia was almost the exclusive supplier, providing 10.962 billion USD of the imports. Within Asia, the top supplier was Japan at 2.165 billion USD, Taiwan 2.111 billion USD, South Korea 1.710 billion USD and Hong Kong 1.158 billion USD. On a year-to-date basis, the import volume is down from all top Asian suppliers, while increasing 11.7 percent from the ASEAN trade block to 539 million USD.

Imports from Europe are up 24.65 percent at 1.032 billion U.S. dollars, which compares to imports from the NAFTA region of only 422 million USD. MMF products accounted for 5.851 billion USD of the imports, while cotton products account for 4.066 billion USD.

Source: globecotnews

China Forges Ahead to Replace Japan as Top Luxury Market

DATE: 2007/10/10

China's consumers are increasing their purchases of imported luxury brands, with January through July luxury brand imports reaching 4.85 billion U.S. dollars, reflecting year-on-year growth of 27.6 percent. This growth has occurred despite China having placed a new consumption tax on luxury goods in 2006 and the increase in customs duties at the beginning of 2007. In 2006, China was ranked as the third largest luxury good market in the world.

However, this total does not include apparel. China's January through August apparel imports reached 1.230 billion U.S. dollars, with the majority of this total estimated to be top-brand luxury apparel. Sales of Italian luxury brand apparel are soaring, with new outlets opening monthly. With the China market for all luxury goods on track to expand at 3.4 billion U.S. dollars annually, the

Source: China Textile Network Company

country is quickly becoming an important destination for top-end luxury brand apparel brands.

Source: *globecotnews*

Importers Defend Trade With China

DATE: 2007/10/08

More than 150 organizations, including the Who's Who of retailing and manufacturers of consumer goods, have written to members of Congress extolling the benefits of global trade and urging them not to bash China because of the burgeoning US/China trade deficit.

As several committees in both the House and Senate are considering legislation to address with punitive tariffs and other measures what many see as China's predatory trade practices, the importers said "retaliatory measures such as increasing tariffs or assessing user fees will do more harm than good." Companies signing the letter included such major importers of Chinese apparel as Wal-Mart, Target and Gap, as well as trade associations including the US Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel, the American Apparel and Footwear Association and the National Retail Federation.

The letter said: "Participation in the global economy has provided significant and important benefits for the United States. Many in the United States, however, have concerns about the impact that globalization in general and trade with China in particular are having on jobs and economic security. We recognize that some parts of the US economy have faced substantially increased competition. We agree that constructive efforts should be pursued vigorously to address such concerns and increase the benefits from engagement in the international economy for all Americans."

The letter went on to say the benefits of participation in the international economy go beyond increased economic activity and the creation of high-quality jobs in the United States, claiming US companies also are promoting better employment and environmental preservation practices and health and safety standards to facilities in China and around the world.

The importers say advancing the United States interests requires eliminating barriers to trade abroad and increasing competitiveness at home. They add that, for example, China has already made major advances in implementing its World Trade Organization commitments in a manner that has benefited nearly all major sectors of the US economy.

The letter said imposing barriers to trade in the name of currency valuation or product safety is not a solution to the underlying concerns about the impact of global trade, and it ultimately undermines the work that should be undertaken to prepare our economy and our workers for the realities of the global economy.

By James A. Morrissey, Washington Correspondent
Source: *Textileworld*