

## **Trends & Future CHALLENGES**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> WORLD LEATHER CONGRESS**

The world's most important tanners recently met in Milan for the [2<sup>nd</sup> World Leather Congress](http://www.worldleathercongress2015.com/) organized by [UNIC](#), the Italian Tanners' Association, and [ICT](#), the International Council of Tanners.

Over 300 delegates from over 20 countries gathered to discuss strategies, trends and market scenarios.

The future of the tanning industry was the theme of the congress patronized by the European Commission, the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, and the Lombardy Region. The main aspects discussed were raw materials, international trade, development of tanning chemistry and technology, and communication.

The leather value chain, originating from a by-product of the meat industry, generates employment for 10 million people worldwide, starting from the slaughterhouse and arriving at the sale of footwear, handbags, car interiors and home furnishings.

The tanning industry, in particular, generates an annual revenue of 40 billion dollars and produces 2 billion square meters of tanned leather each year.

The event held on the eve of LINEAPELLE, the leading trade fair of the leather industry, triggered an intense discussion regarding the instruments and opportunities for growth.

Carlo Corazza (European Union Commission), Barbara Degani (Undersecretary for the Italian Ministry of the Environment), and Mauro Parolini (Councilor for Commerce, Tourism and the Services Industry at Lombardy Region) made the opening remarks. The Ministry for Economic Development was represented by Undersecretary Simona Vicari in support of the event.

"I'm proud to have hosted the World Leather Congress in Italy," said Rino Mastrotto, President of the International Council of Tanners. "We carefully analyzed our most sensitive issues and showed a determination to strengthen this relationship despite our differences."

The support of Italian tanners was expressed by UNIC president Gianni Russo.

S. Mercogliano, UNIC Director, pointed out the lack of cohesion in Europe in handling the serious problems of the tanning industry, starting from trade protectionist measures that EU institutions have been ignored or ineffectively addressed. The disinterest of the European Union especially affects Italian tanneries, which produce 65% of the leather in Europe.

For a complete view of congress activities, please visit the website: <http://www.worldleathercongress2015.com/>

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