

C.I.T.A.

Info

CONFÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES FABRICANTS DE TISSUS D'AMEUBLEMENT
CONFEDERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI FABBRICANTI DI TESSUTI PER ARREDAMENTO
INTERNATIONALE CONFEDERATIE VAN MEUBELSTOFFFABRIKANTEN
INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF MANUFACTURERS OF FURNISHING FABRICS
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INTERNATIONALER VERBAND DER MÖBELSTOFF-FABRIKANTEN

Introduction

C.I.T.A. is a branch-specific lobby on a European level exclusively dealing with all concerns of the European manufacturers of furnishing fabrics and drapes. It is a European-wide professional organisation featuring with a multitude of cross-border sectoral activities.

Purpose of C.I.T.A. is to reach an agreement of the member associations on common international questions of the furnishing fabrics and drapes industry, to support the common interests and to represent the furnishing fabrics and drapes industry of those countries joining the confederation.

What are the key benefits of C.I.T.A.?

C.I.T.A. is a competent and reliable partner working closely together with European authorities, organisations, research institutes and laboratories. C.I.T.A. ensures that the policy-making bodies are aware of the needs of the branch and that your views are heard. By goal-oriented actions C.I.T.A. promotes the image of the furnishing fabrics and drapes industry and contributes to the development of Europe's textile economy.

Joining C.I.T.A. means:

- to become a member of a European association being able to safeguard the interests and to increase the value of the European industry of furnishing fabrics and drapes;
- to be immediately informed on all important matters concerning the European textile industry, e.g. focussing on the latest developments, activities, events, regulations and decisions in political, economical, technical and environmental fields;
- to meet regularly with your European colleagues for an exchange of views and ideas on topics of mutual interest;
- to be part of a group of service and contacts where subjects of common interest are treated and a wide know-how, experience and qualification are guaranteed;
- to contribute to the development of the European sector of furnishing fabrics and drapes through the combined efforts of the European branch associations and the industry's individual enterprises;
- to profit by common activities, e.g. giving recommendations for harmonised European tolerances and recompense, promoting market access, providing recommendations for harmonised customs tariff codes, supplying European statistics on furnishing fabrics and drapes, establishing future quality guidelines, fighting against design copying and many more.



Editorial

The decisions taken on a European level are getting more and more important. Most of the national legislation is regulated by European directives. Due to this increasing Europeanising not for a long time yet finished it is more important than ever for the industry to get in direct contact with the decision makers of the European policy by an efficient body representing the interests of the manufacturers, thereby also contributing to ensure the competitiveness not only on the European market but also on the international markets.

Since more than 40 years C.I.T.A. is representing the interests of the furnishing fabrics industry in Europe. Due to this bundling of forces and due to an effective lobbying C.I.T.A. succeeded in gaining wide influence on economic, social and environmental decisions concerning our branch.

The EU enlargement by further ten member countries, the quota liberalisation as of 2005 or the REACH Directive are only three examples for approaching future-oriented challenges on a European level which also the textile industry will have to meet. In the frame of these or other challenges C.I.T.A. is supporting the needs of the European furnishing fabrics industry directly in Brussels.

Yours
Filippo Mambretti, President of C.I.T.A.

Objectives of C.I.T.A.

C.I.T.A. represents the branch-specific interests of the European manufacturers of furnishing fabrics and drapes and submits their needs and ideas directly to the European decision-making bodies. Due to its function superior to the national branch associations and due to the bundling of interests C.I.T.A. gains more weight on a European level. In this connection the main focus of C.I.T.A. is to aim at preserving and improving the competitiveness of the European industry of furnishing fabrics and drapes in the global market.

Three main objectives of C.I.T.A. are pursued:

1. C.I.T.A. supports and defends all political and economic interests of its members as well as the interests in technical and environmental affairs of the European furnishing fabrics and drapes industry.
2. C.I.T.A. provides an information platform and a forum for the exchange of all questions concerning the European furnishing fabrics and drapes industry.
3. C.I.T.A. also takes an active part in the works of CEN – the European Committee for Standardisation – by focussing on a harmonisation of the technical standards for upholstery fabrics.

In which way are the objectives of C.I.T.A. implemented?

In order to pursue effectively the aforementioned objectives of C.I.T.A. the range of its activities is very wide. The most significant aspect in this context is the fact that C.I.T.A. is a member of EURATEX, the European Apparel and Textile Organisation with its headquarters in Brussels. Thanks to this membership C.I.T.A. is able to bring the interests of the European furnishing fabrics and drapes industry directly into the multiplexed power of the European textile industry as a whole and to react immediately on behalf of the furnishing fabrics and drapes industry to all relevant activities of the European policy. By taking part in several working groups and bodies of EURATEX (e.g. Working Group „Barriers to Trade“) C.I.T.A. is in a constant dialogue with organisations and institutions of other textile sectors, thus profiting from synergy effects.

Further activities of C.I.T.A. at a glance:

- Provision of informative country-specific data of the branch
- Cooperation with other industries and organisations:
 - Spinners
 - Chemical industry
 - Textile finishers
 - Trade organisations
 - National organisations
- Participation in all standardisation activities concerning furnishing fabrics and drapes
- Preservation and improvement of the relationship to European authorities and policy bodies
- Promotion of direct consultations between producers and European politicians
- Permanent information of the members on important issues
- Organisation of joint marketing and advertising activities
- Elaboration of European quality and ecology guidelines for furnishing fabrics and drapes (“C.I.T.A. Seal“)



Ensuring the Competitiveness of European Manufacturers of Furnishing Fabrics and Drapes on the World Market

The spectrum of issues and activities of C.I.T.A. is very voluminous, ranging from economic policy and foreign trade to marketing affairs, thereby always focussing on intelligent solutions to be developed and implemented to the largest possible benefit of all parties concerned. These tasks form the background of a constant exchange on a European level with parliaments, ministries, environmental respectively health authorities and other institutions being active in various domains.

In view of the increasing Europeanising C.I.T.A. has gained considerably in importance by being member of EURATEX (the representative body of the European Textile and Clothing Industry) and its working groups.

By concentrating the power and by bundling the interests of the European manufacturers of furnishing fabrics and drapes C.I.T.A. is able to offer a reasonable lobbying on a broad basis. In this regard especially the following current issues are relevant for C.I.T.A.:

- Formulation of new EU directives
- Environmental issues
- Trade restrictions
- Research
- Standardisation
- Provision of state aids

Furthermore, questions such as market access, customs tariff agreements, anti-dumping control and legal design protection are always discussed in international circles. Primarily C.I.T.A. sees itself as communication platform for the industry, the authorities and the leading commissions in Europe.

In addition to the activity fields already mentioned own projects will be started to continue the promotion of the EU as economic unity. As European association C.I.T.A. is also in the position to exert a key influence on European standardisation procedures for fabrics. Latest example: EN 14465 "Textiles – Upholstery Fabrics – Specification and Methods of Test".



Members of C.I.T.A.

Fachverband der Textilindustrie Österreichs
FEBELTEX

Verband der Deutschen Heimtextilien-Industrie e.V. (VDHI)

Associazione Tessile Italiana (ATI)

Vereniging Textielindustrie Nederland (VTN)

Textilverband Schweiz (TVS)

Türkiye Ev Tekstili Sanayicileri Derneği (TETSD)

Country

Austria

Belgium

Germany

Italy

Netherlands

Switzerland

Turkey

Sponsoring Member of C.I.T.A.

Trevira GmbH

Germany

Where can you meet C.I.T.A.?

C.I.T.A. can be met regularly at the leading trade fairs of the branch, HEIMTEXTIL in Frankfurt/Main (Germany), PROPOSTE in Cernobbio/Lago di Como (Italy) and DECOSIT in Brussels (Belgium). If you want to learn more about the work of C.I.T.A. or if you just want an exchange of ideas with your European colleagues we would like to invite you as guest to one of our meetings.

History

In **1960** C.I.T.A. was established as independent economic organisation for safeguarding the interests of the European furnishing fabrics and carpet industry. Background for the formation was the desire of the industry to have a strong branch-specific lobbying voice on a European level.

Since **1993** – when the carpet industry built up its own branch association – C.I.T.A. has been devoted solely to the advancement of Europe-based manufacturers of furnishing fabrics, however, now its activities will be extended to the drapes industry as well.

At present C.I.T.A. is representing national associations from seven European countries:

Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Turkey. In 2001 by welcoming Turkey into membership C.I.T.A. was already one step ahead of the EU.

Who can become member of C.I.T.A.?

According to the Statutes of C.I.T.A. any European textile association representing manufacturers of furnishing fabrics and/or drapes will be accepted as a member. Also for individual companies it is possible to join C.I.T.A. if their national associations do not want to be members themselves.

C.I.T.A. is well aware of the fact that the needs of the manufacturers of drapes are very similar respectively even identical to those of the producers of furnishing fabrics. This is the reason why the activities of C.I.T.A. are extended from furnishing fabrics to drapes so that also the drapes manufacturing industry all over Europe is welcome to join C.I.T.A.

Any further questions?

Have you got any further questions concerning the work or membership of C.I.T.A.?

Do you want to address important questions to C.I.T.A.? Or would you like to participate as guest in a C.I.T.A. meeting?

The C.I.T.A. Secretariat is always on hand to answer any queries and if you wish to discuss the benefits of membership further:

Please don't hesitate to contact our office!

C.I.T.A.

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