

# ***GLOBAL ALLIANCE for FAIR TEXTILE TRADE (GAFTT)***

---

*96 Trade Groups from 54 Countries Supporting Fair Trade for a Safer World*

## **GAFTT Urges United States to Approve Textile and Clothing Safeguard Petitions Filed by U.S. Industry**

October 12, 2004

The Global Alliance for Fair Textile Trade (GAFTT), a coalition of 96 textile and clothing manufacturing trade associations from 54 countries, urged the U.S. government to approve the threat-based textile China safeguard petition filings announced by the U.S. textile and clothing industry on October 12, 2004.

GAFTT, a coalition that counts amongst its members textile and apparel producers from some of the poorest developing countries in the world, stated:

The U.S. government must approve the petitions if millions of textile and clothing manufacturing workers from around the globe are not to see their jobs destroyed and moved to China. If approved, these safeguard petitions will prevent China from taking more than \$37 billion in textile and apparel exports in these items which are currently being supplied by dozens of other countries. If the U.S. does not act, China will use currency manipulation and other unfair trade practices to quickly dominate these markets. China already has taken more than 70 percent of the U.S. clothing and textile home furnishings import market in the categories that were removed from quota control just two and a half years ago. China accomplished this by dropping its prices by an average of 53 percent, far below the cost of other suppliers.

The prospect of catastrophic job losses in exporting countries around the world represents a crisis of global proportion. Many of the countries at risk of losing textile and clothing exports have no other viable economic sectors into which they can transition ten of thousands – in some cases, hundreds of thousands – of unemployed manufacturing workers. That is why nearly 30 countries stood up at the WTO Council on Trade in Goods meeting on October 1 and expressed support for governments to take special measures to prevent job losses, particularly those in least developed countries, caused by the near-certainty of China flooding world markets after quotas expire on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

The United States represents by far the largest market for imported textile and apparel products, and, as a consequence, the U.S. government bears a special responsibility to prevent China from hurting the export sectors from dozens of countries from around the world. Textile and clothing manufacturing industries in

truly developing countries will be severely damaged or destroyed unless the U.S. government acts to approve these safeguard measures.

Moreover, China is also expected to surge into the European Union, Canadian and other developed and developing world markets, causing additional substantial job losses worldwide. GAFTT also calls on these countries to use their special textile China safeguards too.

- Statements by GAFTT members from Turkey, Mexico, Bangladesh, Peru and Swaziland follow:

"The need for a comprehensive and immediate WTO solution to the international crisis in textile and clothing trade is well understood by much of the world. The quota system has worked precisely as intended, encouraging the development of private-sector textile and clothing manufacturing industries in all corners of the globe. Now much of that development stands at the brink of destruction unless the U.S. government uses its safeguards in a timely and effective manner. The relief provided by the safeguards will help give the WTO the time necessary to address the negative impact of the worldwide expiration of quotas on textile and clothing products" said **Ziya Sukun, Executive Director of ITKIB Association of New York, a trade association representing Turkish textile and clothing manufacturing interests.**

"The Mexican textile industry supports the imposition of safeguards on imports from China in the product categories identified by the U.S. industry on October 12. These products represent more than 80 percent of Mexican exports of apparel to the United States. If these safeguards are not approved, the market disruptions associated with a surge in imports from China will clearly have a serious impact on the textile and apparel industry in Mexico. At the same time, however, we also can anticipate significant adverse impacts on the production of fiber, yarn, and fabrics in the United States as well, because the Mexican textile industry is one of the principal export destinations for these U.S. products," stated **Nora Ambriz Garcia, Director General of the Camera Nacional de la Industria Textil (CANAINTEX).**

Continued Ambriz, "The Governments of the United States and Mexico have recently renewed their mutual commitment to the NAFTA integration process, with specific reference to the textile industry in the hemisphere. CANAINTEX joins with our colleagues in the U.S. textile industry in asserting that the vigorous use of safeguard actions to combat unfair Chinese competition is essential to preserving a competitive textile and apparel industry in the U.S. and in Mexico."

"These safeguard actions are the only effective way to stop China from flooding markets around the world. In Peru, Chinese imports threatened the economic survival of our industry and we were forced to take similar measures. We strongly support the U.S. industry in its effort to obtain safeguards and

also urge other countries around the world to apply them as well," said **Jorge Mufarech Babin, Presidente of the Comite Textil de la Sociedad Nacional de Industrias del Peru.**

"BKMEA strongly supports the use of safeguards by the U.S. government. They are critical to preventing massive job losses in the Bangladesh apparel sector once quotas are removed. Unless the U.S. industry's petitions are granted, much of our workforce could lose their jobs as orders are shifted quickly to China. These safeguards will stop such a disaster from happening and we urge the US government to approve them," stressed **Fazlul Hoque, Chairman of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BKMEA).**

"Swaziland's clothing industry is almost entirely dependent on apparel exports to the United States. If these safeguards are not used, the damage will be extreme and thousands will lose their jobs. Swaziland's clothing industry was established only four years ago with the introduction of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a free-trade agreement between the United States and developing countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. We are a fledgling industry employing close to 30,000 workers, most of whom are young females that had no previous work experience or job opportunities before the clothing industry came along. We have been able to compete and grow with AGOA, but stand no competitive chance against a Chinese government so willing to subsidize industry so massively. We ask that the US government save AGOA and our jobs by approving the U.S. industry's safeguard requests," pleaded **Robert Maxwell of the Swaziland Textile Exporters Association (STEA).**

"Just this past month three factories in Swaziland have closed due to lack of orders and all but four out of 25 factories have given their employees reduced hours or have shut down production for short periods of time during the past eight weeks. The second largest factory in the country, a facility that employs over 2,000 workers under a single roof, recently informed me that this week they will close for two weeks minimum, as they have no work. The clothing manufacturing industry in Swaziland is on a knife's edge," continued Maxwell.

###

#### **Textile and Clothing Trade Associations Endorsing the Istanbul Declaration as of September 1, 2004.**

Argentina – Federacion Argentina de Industrias Textiles (FADIT-FITA)  
Austria – Association of the Austrian Clothing Industry  
Austria – Fachverband der Textilindustrie Osterreichs (Die Textilindustrie)  
Austria – Eurocoton  
Austria – Vereinigung Textilindustrie  
Austria – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
Bangladesh – Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA)  
Bangladesh – Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BKMEA)  
Bangladesh – The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Bangladesh – Bangladesh Terry Towel & Linen Manufacturers and Exporters Assoc.  
 Belgium – Federation Belge de L’Industrie Textile (FEBELTEX)  
 Belgium – Eurocoton  
 Belgium – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 Belgium – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns  
 and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)  
 Bolivia – Asociacion Nacional de Textileros de Bolivia  
 Bolivia – Federacion Textil Andina  
 Botswana – Botswana Export Development and Investment Authority (BEDIA)  
 Bulgaria – Association of Apparel and Textile Exporters in Bulgaria  
 Bulgaria – Bulgarian Association of Textile and Clothing  
 Bulgaria – Bulgarian Industrial Chamber  
 Bulgaria – Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
 Chile – Instituto Textil de Chile – Asociacion Gremial  
 Colombia – Asociacion Colombiana de Productores Textiles (ASCOLTEX)  
 Colombia – Federacion Textil Andina  
 Costa Rica – Costa Rica Textile Chamber  
 Costa Rica – Textile Quota Council  
 Czech Republic – Association of Textile-Clothing-Leather Industries  
 Dominican Republic – Dominican Free Zones Association (ADZONA)  
 Denmark – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 Ecuador – Asociacion Textil del Ecuador (AITE)  
 Ecuador – Federacion Textil Andina  
 El Salvador – Union de Industrias Textiles  
 France – Eurocoton  
 France – Federation Francaise des Industries Lainiere et Cotonniere (FFILC)  
 France – Union Francaise des Industries de l’Habillement (UFIH)  
 France – Union des Industries Textiles (UIT)  
 France – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 France – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns  
 and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)  
 Germany – Eurocoton  
 Germany – Industrievereinigung Garne – Gewebe Technische Textilien  
 Germany – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 Ghana – Gold Coast of Ghana  
 Greece – Association des Industries Cotonnieres de Grece  
 Greece – Hellenic Fashion Industry Association  
 Greece – Eurocoton  
 Greece – Panhellenic Union of Cotton Ginners and Exporters  
 Indonesia – Himpunan Pengusaha Kecil & Koperasi - Tekstil and Produk Tekstil (HPKK-TPT)  
 Indonesia – Asosiasi Industri Rakyat (AIR)  
 Indonesia – API DKI JAYA – Indonesian Textile Association of Greater Jakarta  
 Israel – The Manufactures’ Association of Israel, Fashion & Textile Industries Assoc.  
 Italy – Associazione Italiana Industrie della Filliera Tessile Abbigliamento (AIIFTA)  
 Italy – Associazione Tessile Italiana (ATI)  
 Italy – Eurocoton  
 Italy – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 Italy – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns  
 and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)  
 Ivory Coast – Agency for the Promotion of Exports (APEX-CI)  
 Jordan – Jordan Garments, Accessories & Textile Exporters Association (JGATE)  
 Kenya – Kenya Apparel Manufacturers Exporters Association  
 Kenya – Kenya Association of Manufacturers – Textile Sector (KAM)  
 Latvia – Association of Textile and Clothing Industry  
 Lesotho – Lesotho Textile Exporters Association

Lithuania – Lithuanian Apparel and Textile Industry Association  
 Madagascar – Madagascar Export Promotion Association (GEFP)  
 Mauritius – Mauritius Export Processing Zone Association (MEPZA)  
 Mauritius – Mauritius-US Business Association (MUSBA)  
 Mexico – Camera Nacional de la Industria Textil (CANAINTEX)  
 Mexico – Cámara Nacional de la Industria del Vestido (CNIV)  
 Mexico – Cámara Mexicana de la Industria Textil Central  
 Mexico – Cámara Textil de Occidente  
 Namibia – Namibian Investment Authority  
 Nepal – Garment Association of Nepal (GAN)  
 Netherlands – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 Norway – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 Paraguay – Cámara Textil Paraguaya  
 Peru – Comité de Confecciones de la Sociedad Nacional de Industrias del Perú  
 Peru – Comité Textil de la Sociedad Nacional de Industrias del Peru  
 Peru – Federacion Textil Andina  
 Philippines – Confederation of Garments Exporters of the Philippines  
 Poland – The Gdynia Cotton Association  
 Poland – Polish Textile and Clothing Chamber  
 Poland – Polish Chamber of Textile Industry  
 Poland – Union of Employers of Textile Industry  
 Portugal – Federation of Portuguese Textile and Clothing Industry (FITVEP)  
 Portugal – Textile and Apparel Association of Portugal (ATP)  
 Senegal – Agency for the Promotion of Investments and Exports (APIX)  
 Slovenia – Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, Textiles, Clothing and  
 Leather Processing Association  
 South Africa – Clothing Trade Council of South Africa (CloTrade)  
 South Africa – Export Council for the Clothing Industry in South Africa  
 South Africa – South African Textile Industry Export Council (SATIEC)  
 South Africa – Textile Federation of South Africa (TEXTFED)  
 Spain – Agrupacion Espanola de Desmotadores de Algodon (AEDA)  
 Spain – Asociacion Industrial de Proceso Algodonero (AITPA)  
 Spain – Consejo Intertextil Espanol  
 Spain – Eurocoton  
 Spain – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns  
 and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)  
 Sri Lanka – Joint Apparel Association Forum  
 Sri Lanka – National Apparel Exporters Association  
 Swaziland – Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA)  
 Swaziland – Swaziland Textile Exporters Association (STEA)  
 Switzerland – Eurocoton  
 Switzerland – Swiss Spinning Committee  
 Switzerland – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 Switzerland – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament  
 Yarns and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)  
 Tanzania – Tanzania Investment Center (TIC)  
 Tunisia – Federation Nationale de Textile (FENATEX)  
 Turkey – Turkish Textile and Raw Materials Exporters Association (ITKIB Textiles)  
 Turkey – Turkish Ready Wear and Garments Exporters Association (ITKIB Apparel)  
 Turkey – Turkish Clothing Manufacturers Association (TGSD)  
 Turkey – Turkish Textile Employers Association (TUTSIS)  
 Turkey – Eurocoton  
 Turkey – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 Turkey – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns  
 and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)  
 United Kingdom – Joint Comte. of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 United Kingdom – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament

Yarns and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)

United States – American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC)

United States – American Yarn Spinners Association (AYSA)

United States – National Cotton Council (NCC)

United States – National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)

United States – National Textile Association (NTA)

Uruguay – Asociacion de Industrias Textiles del Uruguay

Venezuela – Asociacion Textil Venezolana (ATV)

Venezuela – Federacion Textil Andina

Zambia – Export Board of Zambia

Zambia – Textile Producers Association of Zambia

## **Textile and Clothing Trade Associations Endorsing the Istanbul Declaration as of September 1, 2004.**

Argentina – Federacion Argentina de Industrias Textiles (FADIT-FITA)  
Austria – Association of the Austrian Clothing Industry  
Austria – Fachverband der Textilindustrie Osterreichs (Die Textilindustrie)  
Austria – Eurocoton  
Austria – Vereinigung Textilindustrie  
Austria – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
Bangladesh – Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA)  
Bangladesh – Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BKMEA)  
Bangladesh – The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry  
Bangladesh – Bangladesh Terry Towel & Linen Manufacturers and Exporters Assoc.  
Belgium – Federation Belge de L'Industrie Textile (FEBELTEX)  
Belgium – Eurocoton  
Belgium – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
Belgium – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)  
Bolivia – Asociacion Nacional de Textileros de Bolivia  
Bolivia – Federacion Textil Andina  
Botswana – Botswana Export Development and Investment Authority (BEDIA)  
Bulgaria – Association of Apparel and Textile Exporters in Bulgaria  
Bulgaria – Bulgarian Association of Textile and Clothing  
Bulgaria – Bulgarian Industrial Chamber  
Bulgaria – Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Chile – Instituto Textil de Chile – Asociacion Gremial  
Colombia – Asociacion Colombiana de Productores Textiles (ASCOLTEX)  
Colombia – Federacion Textil Andina  
Costa Rica – Costa Rica Textile Chamber  
Costa Rica – Textile Quota Council  
Czech Republic – Association of Textile-Clothing-Leather Industries  
Dominican Republic – Dominican Free Zones Association (ADZONA)  
Denmark – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
Ecuador – Asociacion Textil del Ecuador (AITE)  
Ecuador – Federacion Textil Andina  
El Salvador – Union de Industrias Textiles  
France – Eurocoton  
France – Federation Francaise des Industries Lainiere et Cotonniere (FFILC)  
France – Union Francaise des Industries de l'Habillement (UFIH)  
France – Union des Industries Textiles (UIT)  
France – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
France – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)  
Germany – Eurocoton  
Germany – Industrievereinigung Garne – Gewebe Technische Textilien  
Germany – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
Ghana – Gold Coast of Ghana

Greece – Association des Industries Cotonnières de Grece  
 Greece – Hellenic Fashion Industry Association  
 Greece – Eurocoton  
 Greece – Panhellenic Union of Cotton Ginners and Exporters  
 Indonesia – Himpunan Pengusaha Kecil & Koperasi - Tekstil and Produk Tekstil (HPKK-TPT)  
 Indonesia – Asosiasi Industri Rakyat (AIR)  
 Indonesia – API DKI JAYA – Indonesian Textile Association of Greater Jakarta  
 Israel – The Manufacturers’ Association of Israel, Fashion & Textile Industries Assoc.  
 Italy – Associazione Italiana Industrie della Filiera Tessile Abbigliamento (AIIFTA)  
 Italy – Associazione Tessile Italiana (ATI)  
 Italy – Eurocoton  
 Italy – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 Italy – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns  
 and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)  
 Ivory Coast – Agency for the Promotion of Exports (APEX-CI)  
 Jordan – Jordan Garments, Accessories & Textile Exporters Association (JGATE)  
 Kenya – Kenya Apparel Manufacturers Exporters Association  
 Kenya – Kenya Association of Manufacturers – Textile Sector (KAM)  
 Latvia – Association of Textile and Clothing Industry  
 Lesotho – Lesotho Textile Exporters Association  
 Lithuania – Lithuanian Apparel and Textile Industry Association  
 Madagascar – Madagascar Export Promotion Association (GEFP)  
 Mauritius – Mauritius Export Processing Zone Association (MEPZA)  
 Mauritius – Mauritius-US Business Association (MUSBA)  
 Mexico – Cámara Nacional de la Industria Textil (CANAINTEX)  
 Mexico – Cámara Nacional de la Industria del Vestido (CNIV)  
 Mexico – Cámara Mexicana de la Industria Textil Central  
 Mexico – Cámara Textil de Occidente  
 Namibia – Namibian Investment Authority  
 Nepal – Garment Association of Nepal (GAN)  
 Netherlands – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 Norway – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 Paraguay – Cámara Textil Paraguaya  
 Peru – Comité de Confecciones de la Sociedad Nacional de Industrias del Perú  
 Peru – Comité Textil de la Sociedad Nacional de Industrias del Perú  
 Peru – Federación Textil Andina  
 Philippines – Confederation of Garments Exporters of the Philippines  
 Poland – The Gdynia Cotton Association  
 Poland – Polish Textile and Clothing Chamber  
 Poland – Polish Chamber of Textile Industry  
 Poland – Union of Employers of Textile Industry  
 Portugal – Federation of Portuguese Textile and Clothing Industry (FITVEP)  
 Portugal – Textile and Apparel Association of Portugal (ATP)  
 Senegal – Agency for the Promotion of Investments and Exports (APIX)  
 Slovenia – Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, Textiles, Clothing and  
 Leather Processing Association  
 South Africa – Clothing Trade Council of South Africa (CloTrade)  
 South Africa – Export Council for the Clothing Industry in South Africa

South Africa – South African Textile Industry Export Council (SATIEC)  
 South Africa – Textile Federation of South Africa (TEXTFED)  
 Spain – Agrupacion Espanola de Desmotadores de Algodon (AEDA)  
 Spain – Asociacion Industrial de Proceso Algodonero (AITPA)  
 Spain – Consejo Intertextil Espanol  
 Spain – Eurocoton  
 Spain – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)  
 Sri Lanka – Joint Apparel Association Forum  
 Sri Lanka – National Apparel Exporters Association  
 Swaziland – Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA)  
 Swaziland – Swaziland Textile Exporters Association (STEA)  
 Switzerland – Eurocoton  
 Switzerland – Swiss Spinning Committee  
 Switzerland – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 Switzerland – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)  
 Tanzania – Tanzania Investment Center (TIC)  
 Tunisia – Federation Nationale de Textile (FENATEX)  
 Turkey – Turkish Textile and Raw Materials Exporters Association (ITKIB Textiles)  
 Turkey – Turkish Ready Wear and Garments Exporters Association (ITKIB Apparel)  
 Turkey – Turkish Clothing Manufacturers Association (TGSD)  
 Turkey – Turkish Textile Employers Association (TUTSIS)  
 Turkey – Eurocoton  
 Turkey – Joint Committee of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 Turkey – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)  
 United Kingdom – Joint Comte. of the Textile Finishing Industry in the E.U. (CRIET)  
 United Kingdom – International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns and of Natural Silk (AIUFFAS)  
 United States – American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC)  
 United States – American Yarn Spinners Association (AYSA)  
 United States – National Cotton Council (NCC)  
 United States – National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)  
 United States – National Textile Association (NTA)  
 Uruguay – Asociacion de Industrias Textiles del Uruguay  
 Venezuela – Asociacion Textil Venezolana (ATV)  
 Venezuela – Federacion Textil Andina  
 Zambia – Export Board of Zambia  
 Zambia – Textile Producers Association of Zambia