

Footwear - Trade Unions

1. Introduction

The European footwear industry has faced many challenges recently, such as increased competition leading to restructuring and modernisation. Risk & Policy Analysts (RPA) has been asked by the European Commission (DG Enterprise and Industry – contact entr-textiles-fashion-and-forest-ind@ec.europa.eu) to carry out an in-depth assessment of the current status of the sector and its future prospects. The goal of the assessment is to better equip stakeholders, as well as regional, national and European authorities, to respond to the challenges.

We set out some questions below which will help us to analyse the current state of the industry. While some questions may be difficult to answer precisely; please provide your best estimate where possible. Please note that responses to this questionnaire will be handled in the strictest confidence and will only be used for the purposes of this study. In preparing our reports for the Commission (which may subsequently be published), care will be taken to ensure that specific responses cannot be linked to individual companies. If you have specific concerns about how your views will be treated, you can contact Eszter Kantor (see email below) and we will be happy to discuss your concerns.

We would be very grateful if you could answer the following questions by **20 May 2011**.

If you have difficulties with this on-line questionnaire, you may complete a version off-line and return to eszter.kantor@rpald.co.uk or by fax to +44 1508 520758.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

2. About Your Organisation

1. Please provide the following information:

Contact name:	<input type="text"/>
Organisation:	<input type="text"/>
Location (country):	<input type="text"/>
Telephone number:	<input type="text"/>
E-mail address:	<input type="text"/>

2. How many members do you have working in the following categories of footwear enterprises?

Designers	<input type="text"/>
Manufacturers	<input type="text"/>
Suppliers	<input type="text"/>
Retailers	<input type="text"/>
Total	<input type="text"/>

3. How many of your members work in companies of the following sizes?

Micro (fewer than 10 staff)	<input type="text"/>
Small (11 – 50 staff)	<input type="text"/>
Medium (51 – 250 staff)	<input type="text"/>
Large (over 250 staff)	<input type="text"/>

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3. Challenges

1. How important are the following challenges that the European footwear industry has faced in the last 5 years?

	Not applicable	Not challenging	Slightly challenging	Moderately challenging	Very challenging
Access to finance	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Finding customers	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Competition	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Availability of skilled staff	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Costs of production	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Legislative requirements	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Counterfeit goods	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Patent protection	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Access to new markets	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Access to raw materials	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Development of new products	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Changes in technology	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Integration of ICT	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Innovation	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Other	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

If Other (please specify)

2. How important have the following problems been to your members in the footwear sector in the last 5 years?

	Not applicable	Not challenging	Slightly challenging	Moderately challenging	Very challenging
Loss of jobs	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Pressure on pay	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Reduced training	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Longer hours	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
De-skilling of jobs	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Other	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

If Other (please specify)

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3. How do you expect the following challenges for your members from the footwear companies to change in the next 5 years?

	Not applicable	Not challenging	Slightly challenging	Moderately challenging	Very challenging
Loss of jobs	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Pressure on pay	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Reduced training	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Longer hours	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
De-skilling of jobs	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Other	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

If Other (please specify)

4. National/Regional Involvement

1. For national/regional unions only! Are you aware of any regional or national strategies or programmes to support the footwear industry in your country?

No

Yes, please specify:

2. For national/regional unions only! Do these strategies or programmes make special provisions for SMEs in the footwear sector?

No

Yes, please specify:

3. For national/regional unions only! Have these national strategies and programmes been helpful in assisting the footwear sector to deal with the challenges it faces?

No

Yes, please specify:

4. Has your organisation been involved in the negotiations relating to national policies on wages, education or working conditions in the footwear industry?

No

Yes, please specify:

5. Workplace Environment and Training

1. Has the number of your members employed in the footwear industry changed in the last 5 years?

Reduced by more than 25%

About the same (less than 10% change)

Reduced by 10 to 25%

Increased by more than 10%

2. Do you expect the number of your members employed in the footwear industry to change in the next five years?

Reduce

Stay the same

Increase

3. How has the number of people employed in the following employment categories changed over the past 5 years?

	Reduced	Stayed the same	Increased
Managers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Administrative staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Researchers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skilled workers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unskilled workers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If Other, please specify

4. For national/regional unions only! Is specific training is available in your country for those who wish to be employed in the footwear sector? Please tick all types that are available

Apprenticeships

Degree courses

Vocational courses

Specialist training courses

Other (please specify)

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5. For national/regional unions only! Has the availability of training in your country for those who wish to be employed in the footwear sector changed in the last five years?

	Increased	Stayed the same	Reduced
Apprenticeships	jn	jn	jn
Vocational courses	jn	jn	jn
Degree courses	jn	jn	jn
Specialist training courses	jn	jn	jn
Other	jn	jn	jn

If Other, please specify

6. Have you been involved in the development or promotion of training for those who wish to be employed in the footwear sector?

	Yes	No
Involved in the development of training	jn	jn
Involved in the promotion of training	jn	jn

IF Yes, please provide details:

6. Final Comments

Thank you very much for completing this questionnaire and finally:

1. Have we missed any important aspects of your members' position or future prospects? Please let us know in the box below.