

Association of Thessaloniki' s tanners
"THE UNION"

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Thessaloniki 29/11/02

**SUBJECT: TANWEEK MEETING IN HELLENIC INSTITUTE OF
METROLOGY**

We are very pleased to congratulate the initiative of ELKEDE to realize this meeting. The meeting is held in the most proper time for all us, the tanners of Thessaloniki, as this is one of the worst times that our profession faces.

This is the time that a program takes place in Thessaloniki and could be characterized as pioneer and a life dream for most of us. This program could possible reach its high aims that we all dream in terms of working development and business capabilities.

The facilities in which we operate, do not meet with modern company's needs and cannot offer us business development support. The buildings, the machineries and the production lines are behind the new technology. On the other hand, following the fashion trends, better exploitation of the workers and reducing production cost, are targets that if we achieve them, we will have all the necessary background to face the difficult international competitiveness.

Considering these topics, I would like to express a great complain of our association and our request for a general revision on the small subsidies and the expensive land fields in the Industrial Zone of Thessaloniki. Those parameters actually blocks our investment programs and prevent others from following the evolution of technology shrinking our sector day by day. We want to believe that when the time comes, the Government will take all necessary actions and try to revise the subsidies' policy in general.

Tanners are very useful to society in general, as their final products cannot be replaced from synthetic industrial products. Nature provides us with a valuable product, leather. A material that has been used for several human needs. Modern technology applying all the necessary changes in order to protect the environment makes leather process even more compatible with our life. I am talking about the use of the wastewater treatment machineries that process all the liquid disposals, filters installed

for preventing air pollution and environmental friendly chemical substances.

New technology applications have been applied in the Industrial Zone of Thessaloniki. The tanneries won't pollute seawater anymore if the necessary machineries exist. But who can say that tanneries are the only one that pollute the environment? Unfortunately, pollution problems will always exist. Perhaps, after a certain period everyone can understand what we declare everyday. That we are not the only one that pollutes the environment. Pollution problems will exist even if there are no tanneries in Thessaloniki.

In the following days, some members of our association are going to sign the agreements concerning land field buying. They already negotiate for choosing the appropriate ones. We believe that we can achieve our re-allocation if mutually understands exist.

Thank you very much.

The President

Dimitropoulos Kyriakos

Secretary General

Tsilias Ioannis