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A new record for exports leads to greater expectations for the Spanish textile sector

The first half of 2013 saw an upward trend in turnover for Spanish textile companies, an increase which resulted from the positive behaviour of foreign markets. The complicated situation of the Spanish market continues, however, although it appears to be bottoming out and shows some slight indications of improvement.

Overall exports for the textile and clothing sector rose by 16.4% in the first quarter, reaching €5.82 billion. Once again, clothing exports were the most active, although exports of textile products (yarn, fabrics and other manufactured products) also grew.

The improvement was present in most markets, in particular those of Asia, China and Japan, and non-EU European markets such as Turkey and Russia. In addition, the countries of the EU, which are our main customers (64% of total exports), noticeably increased purchases of Spanish products, especially Germany, Italy, France, Portugal and the United Kingdom. Exports to these five countries increased by 18% and now represent almost half the total.

In spite of these promising results, there are still numerous uncertainties as to the future behaviour of our main customers since there is an obvious slowdown in growth in some emerging countries and, although forecasts suggest that the European economy has begun a recovery, this is not at all certain as yet.

In any case, these figures reflect a greater effort to export on the part of our companies as well as the improvement in competitiveness that the Spanish economy has undergone over the last few years. Investment in innovation, design, quality and services is the basis of the success of Spanish products abroad, to which can be added attractive prices, the proximity of the principal European markets, flexibility in response time and a favourable industrial environment with an ample capacity for creativity.

The improvement in the situation here is reflected in a growth of 2.3% in the production of the textile sector (excluding clothing) during the first half of the year. Employment figures have also been improving slowly, although they are still lower than the previous year.

Due to the difficulties in the Spanish market, exports have become the priority for companies in order to increase sales. It is logical, therefore, to expect that Spanish companies will maintain their efforts to export, which is forecast to result in exports (textiles and clothing) of approximately €12 billion in 2013. This will represent a new record and consolidate the position of Spain as one of the main European exporters in the sector.

For more information contact :

CONFEDERACIÓN DE LA INDUSTRIA TEXTIL – TEXFOR

International Promotion Department

international@texfor.es

www.textilesfromspain.org