

**“If we want to win the wider political argument for free trade, we must be ready to defend fair trade...” – Brussels, 23 March 2006**

**EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson on anti-dumping measures on Chinese and Vietnamese leather shoes**

“Defence against unfair trade is specifically sanctioned by the WTO. I do not use trade defence instruments lightly or casually. On the other hand, it would be irresponsible to ignore clear evidence when this is presented. I will continue to act on this basis and with a strict application of the rules.” – Press Conference, Brussels, 24 February 2006

“I do not accept that acting to limit the damaging effects of this dumping is protectionism. Indeed, my view is that free trade suffers when unfair trade is allowed to flourish.” – Press Conference, Brussels, 24 February 2006

“I need to be crystal clear: anti-dumping measures will not take the form of quantitative restrictions or import quotas. There is no ban on the goods in question and no limit to their export to Europe. We are not closing the door to fairly exported Chinese and Vietnamese goods. In fact that door is open wide.” – Press Conference, Brussels, 24 February 2006

“Intense competitive pressure on European footwear producers is not related solely to dumped goods. China and Vietnam have natural low cost advantages in labour and manufacturing. The Commission is not arguing that this competition is unfair because wages are lower in China and Vietnam than they are in Europe. That may be tough competition - but it is fair competition. Unfair competition is when markets are rigged, disguised subsidies are freely made available. That is what we have found. These companies are taking their legitimate low-cost advantage and topping it up with unfair behaviour.” – *// Sole 24*, 3 March 2006

“I am strongly committed to developing the two way trade and investment relationship between Europe and China, and with other Asian markets including Vietnam. There is no greater prize for European trade policy in the coming years than the prize of getting these relationships right.” – European Parliament debate, 14 March 2006

“The European footwear industry is in the front line of global competition. For all their ingenuity, creativity and excellence, Europe’s leather shoe makers are faced with an extraordinary challenge from Asian producers. Europe’s trade defence measures target unfair trade. They cannot protect us from tough competition. They cannot shield us from Asia’s natural and legitimate low-cost advantages... The only sustainable balance to that competition is the creativity, innovation and commitment of European companies themselves” – European Parliament debate, 14 March 2006

“We cannot block globalisation and economic change. I do not believe it is in Europe’s interest to try. Those who think that the Trade Commissioner can reverse global economic change are asking King Canute to hold back the tide. But we can shape globalisation; even harness its dynamic potential for renewal and innovation”. – European Parliament debate, 14 March 2006

“We must invest in change. Invest in those affected by change. But face up to a changing world. Of course, too, we must be robust in our defence of the rules, and our defence of fair competition. We need to recognise that if we want to win the wider political argument for free trade, we must be ready to defend fair trade.” – European Parliament debate, 14 March 2006

More about Commissioner Mandelson’s proposals for provisional [anti-dumping measures](#) on Chinese and Vietnamese leather shoes