

# MADE IN...?

## KNOWING THE ORIGIN



J. DAUL

*J'ai signé!*



E. BARÓN CRESPO

*¡ He firmado !*



G. WATSON

*I signed!*



H. RÜHLE

*Ich habe  
unterschrieben!*



E. MALDEIKIS

*Aš pasirašiau!*

**SIGN WRITTEN DECLARATION 75/2007 ON ORIGIN MARKING NOW!**

**SUPPORTING TRANSPARENCY FOR CONSUMERS AND MANUFACTURERS**

A mark of origin on products imported from third countries gives the simple but valuable information that goods come from a non-EU country. As European consumers know the origin of production, they can make their purchase decisions with greater awareness.

The origin mark accompanies a product when it enters a European Union territory and is introduced into the internal market. Obligatory origin marking is particularly important for certain categories of goods whose association with a place of production in the global market may communicate to the consumer much more than mere geographical information. This is the case for product categories such as textiles and clothing, jewellery, footwear, furniture, leather, leather goods and furs, ceramics and brushes.

Currently there is no requirement to indicate origin at European level. All the Union's main trading partners have had a system of mandatory origin marking for various categories of goods in place for some time already. Among the countries with such a system are the United States, Canada, Japan and China.

The idea of required origin marking for certain categories of goods imported from third countries has been the object of reflection by the industry in cooperation with the European Commission for a long time. Following a wider stakeholder consultation (involving industry, trade unions, consumers and high-level public institutions), the Commission drafted a proposal for a regulation presented in December 2005 to the Council of the European Union. At present, the proposal for a regulation is under discussion in the Council.

The benefits of introducing required marking of origin are three-fold:

- **Greater transparency for consumers and so more informed purchase choices. This is not about discriminating against non-EU products in favour of those produced internally, but about providing consumers with more information on what they are purchasing, and introducing a further element of traceability into the European market.**
- **Eliminating the trade and competitiveness disadvantage of the EU with respect to its main commercial partners. Various European sectors are obliged to put an indication of provenance on goods exported to countries such as the United States or China, but not vice versa.**
- **Preventing the worrying spread of false and fraudulent labels or other fake indications of the origin of goods.**

Knowing where the products you are buying come from is a right that the citizens of almost all countries in the world already enjoy.

However, this is not yet the case for European citizens.

Back in 2005, the European Commission proposed a Regulation to introduce compulsory origin marking on certain categories of goods when these are imported into the EU.

The Council has not yet adopted it.

Compulsory origin marking allows for:

- § Consumer transparency
- § A level-playing field for the EU manufacturers
- § A tool against false and fraudulent indications of origin

It is an act of legal civility that is missing from EU legislation.

The European Parliament's Written Declaration No. 75/2007 on origin marking calls for the adoption of the Commission proposal to the benefit of both Europe's consumers and its economy.

If you believe in transparency:

**SIGN IT NOW!**

ITF

Italian Textile Fashion



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"MADE IN..." *for* TRANSPARENCY

**For additional information, please contact**

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