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PRESS RELEASE

PAKISTAN'S ENVIRONMENT MINISTER URGES TANNERS TO USE WATER BASED CHEMICALS

Waalwijk, 6 August 2014 – At the ‘Sustainability for Leather’ seminar organised by chemical company Stahl, the Environment Minister of Punjab in Pakistan emphasised the importance of repressing environmental pollution. Minister Shuja Khanzada called on the tanners to stop using harmful chemicals, as there are plenty of more environmental friendly water-based chemicals available. The Sustainability for Leather seminar in Lahore in Pakistan was attended by more than 200 tanners, representatives of leather organisations and academics. The attendees agreed that by working together within the whole leather supply chain, a difference in the industry can be made.

Next to its call on using water-based chemicals, Environment Minister Shuja Khanzada of the province Punjab in Pakistan stated that the leather industry should adopt modern principles for waste management. Only those industries that dispose their waste in a proper manner will be allowed to operate in Pakistan.

The Sustainability for Leather seminar is part of a seminar series organised by Stahl to support the industry towards a more sustainable future. “We believe that it is time for action now to make the entire leather processing chain more sustainable”, said Mike Tomkin, Director Sustainability at Stahl. “Even taking small steps can improve the situation.” Next to the seminar in Pakistan, Stahl organised seminars in India and Bangladesh. “The huge attendance with over 200 visitors per event, shows that the whole chain wants to become more sustainable. We believe that it is our responsibility to accelerate this process”, said Tomkin.

Thanks to the positive feedback of the attendees, Stahl will also organise Sustainability for Leather seminars in other regions, such as China, Mongolia, Mexico and Scandinavia. Each seminar will be held in the local language to reach as many tanners and other industry representatives as possible. Return visits to previous venues such as Pakistan, India and Bangladesh will be scheduled to keep on supporting the tanners to become more sustainable.

About Stahl

Stahl is the leading company in chemicals for leather products and performance coatings. With its three brands Stahl, PielColor and Picassian, the company delivers best in class solutions for top brands active in the automotive, fashion and furniture industry amongst others. With more than 1,800 employees at 11 manufacturing sites and 38 laboratories in 23 countries, Stahl is expected to realise an annual turnover of over 600 million euro. With its innovation power, knowledge, expertise and range of technical solutions Stahl is able to deliver best in class solutions and services to respond even better to client needs and secure a sustainable future.