



**Confédération Européenne de l'Industrie de la Chaussure**  
**European Confederation of the Footwear Industry**

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**Portugal will take over the next CEC Presidency**

*The European Confederation of the Footwear Industry (CEC) is pleased to announce that Luís Onofre, President of APICCAPS, was unanimously elected as the next President of CEC at the General Assembly held in Brussels last December. CEC Members warmly welcome his election and look forward to working with President Onofre to keep establishing a prosperous, growing and dynamic European footwear industry.*

At the CEC's biannual General Assembly held in Brussels in December, Luís Onofre, President of the Portuguese Footwear, Components and Leather Goods Manufacturers' Association (APICCAPS), was elected to serve a first term of two years as CEC's President. He will succeed Cleto Sagripanti, who has actively and successfully acted as President of CEC for two mandates (2015-2018).

As was the case for Sagripanti, the recently elected Portuguese President has a noteworthy career in the footwear sector, both coming from a footwear family tradition and becoming a successful businessman with his luxury shoe brand, Luís Onofre. He grew up in the fashion industry, taking his father as his role model. Entrepreneur and designer for over 20 years and leader of the Portuguese Footwear Association since 2017, Luís' vision about the fashion industry reflects a combination of tradition and modernity, with a focus on design and the latest trends and always seeking for the quality and excellency of products.

Under the guidance of Luís Onofre, the CEC will continue working on a favourable agenda for European footwear companies trying to anticipate the opportunities and challenges created by fast-paced political, economic, social and technological changes affecting the industry and the consumers' expectations.

João Maia, General Manager of APICCAPS, commented at the General Assembly: "Luís Onofre is a Portuguese designer recognised for his dedication and creativity. He represents an inspiration for new designers and potential young workers". As a genuine footwear expert, CEC foresees special focus to strengthen digital skills in the sector to better and faster respond to consumers' needs and to promote leather shoes, the best example of European identity and craftsmanship with a sustainable material.

Luís Onofre commented: "I see the CEC's Presidency as a new challenge similar to the one I embraced two years ago with APICCAPS's Presidency. I will dedicate all my efforts to help strengthen the European Footwear Industry in this world full of uncertainties".

Luís Onofre will take over the Presidency of CEC at the next General Assembly of this body taking place in Porto on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

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