International Conference on Latest Advances in High-Tech Textiles and Textile-Based Materials

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "LATEST ADVANCES IN HIGH TECH TEXTILES AND TEXTILE-BASED MATERIALS"

Dear Participant,

80 years of textile engineering at Ghent University (Universiteit Gent) is an excellent opportunity to bring together eminent researchers from all over the world in a strong and attractive programme proving the textile community is truly a global family.

Creativity, innovation, sustainability and multidisciplinarity are answers to a challenge which has never been that explicit in the history of mankind. The various lectures of this conference are indicative of the broad spectrum of research activities in the textile world. It is particularly that exciting research that will lead to numerous developments in the next decade to satisfy specific consumer needs through innovative products and services.

The conference includes a special COST Day on "Biotechnological Functionalisation of Advanced Fibre Reinforced Composites", a cooperation between Cost Actions 868 and MP0701, and is organized together with the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Textile and Polymer Biotechnology (INTB). The European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) and the National Fund for Scientific Research (FWO) support these activities. Both organizations are gratefully acknowledged for their financial contribution.

The event remarkably contributes to the modern and high tech image of textiles. In addition, a meeting with so many international participants is also an ideal opportunity for socializing. It is my sincere hope that this gathering will also be remembered as a period of time during which many (new) friendships were established.

I wish you an interesting and enriching stay at the conference!

Prof. Dr. Paul KIEKENS, dr.h.c. Head of Department of Textiles Faculty of Engineering Ghent University, Belgium http://textiles.UGent.be 23 September 2009