

## **Trade Commissioner Mandelson meets Spanish Mayors - Brussels, 14 June 2006**

**Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson met today with a delegation of Mayors from the Valencia region of Spain, led by Spanish MEP Joan Calabuig Rull. The Commissioner and the Mayors discussed the on-going investigation into the dumping of certain kinds of leather shoes on the EU market by China and Vietnam. The Trade Commissioner also briefed the Valencia delegation on his recent trip to China and his efforts to encourage China to improve the protection of intellectual property rights of European companies.**

Speaking after the meeting, Commissioner Mandelson said: "I understand and recognise the concerns and interests of this dynamic, innovative region where protecting Europe's comparative advantage in high-value, high quality produce is of paramount importance. Fair competition from Asia is important for producers in Spain who are facing tough competition from low-cost producers. We have acted in the shoe case because that low-cost advantage is being topped up with uncompetitive behaviour. I welcome the concern from all parts of European industry that Europe continue to fight for free trade while insisting on fair trade".

Participants in the meeting: Mr. Joan Ignasi Plá, Secretary General of the PSOE in the region of Valencia; Mrs. Vicenta Tortosa, Mayor of Villena; Mr. Juan Pascual Azorín, Mayor of Elda; Mr. Diego Maciá, Mayor of Elche; Mr. Antonio Callado, Mayor of Almansa.