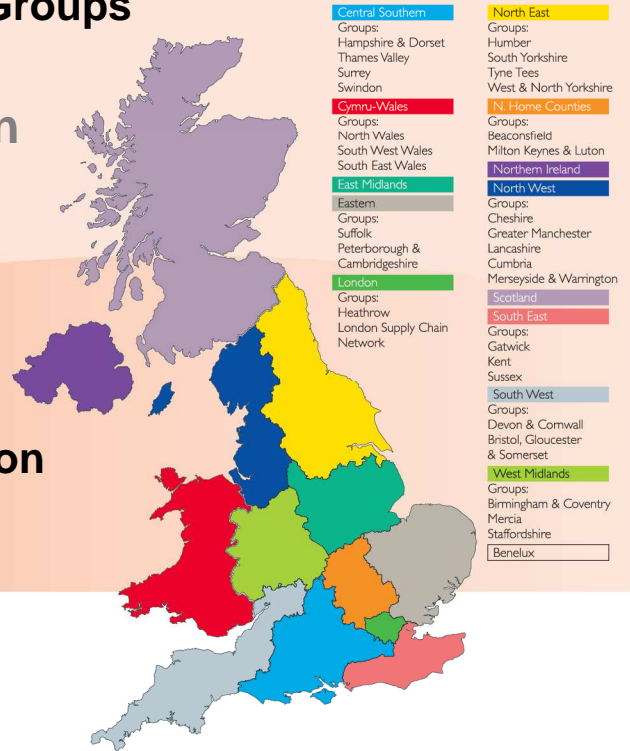


## News from the Nations, Regions & Groups

### CILT(UK) East Midlands Region

21st February 2011

### Supply Chain Issues in Retail Fashion



Stephen Gray MILT, who has been researching the fashion and textiles sector gave an interesting and thought provoking presentation on the drivers in the sector that impact logistics operations. He discussed the growth of global outsourcing and globalisation, import and export markets and the processes and needs of customers from design to retail in terms of time pressures and fast fashion.

The UK consumer spent £53 billion in 2009 on selected fashion and textiles products

The Fashion and Textiles Supply Chain is constantly evolving and emphasis was given to the skill needs in the sector. Although there has been a decline in the number of people employed in the industry, the sector employs 340,000 people and is worth £11.5bn

Although a major importer of cheaper products, the importance of the British brand cannot be underestimated and there is a strong demand for the more expensive UK fashion items. The British manufactured brand carries prestige and is popular in overseas markets.

Textile manufacturers are moving up the production chain into technical textile production, where textiles are based on performance rather than appearance. Technical textiles have sales worth 1.32bn Euros. UK manufacturers identify themselves as high quality and niche and there is increasing focus on export markets

The event was well attended and there was a lively debate on the effects of e-commerce, length of supply chain from the Far East, manufacturing being brought back into Europe, forecasting issues, inventories and the different methods which retailers use to minimise carrying too much stock.

