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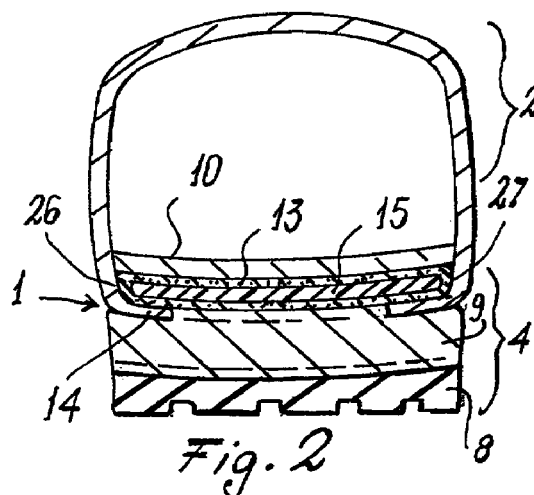
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(54) **Sandwich-type footwear stiffening element of rigid or at least semi-rigid behaviour, usable as part of the sole unit or insole**

(57) For a lower part (4) of footwear (2, 3), an element of rigid or semi-rigid behaviour suitable for use as the sole unit or as an insole or internal foot support for the footwear, this latter comprising a vamp (7) associated with the lower portion (4) of the footwear. Said element (1) comprises at least three mutually associated layer portions (13, 14, 15) defining a sandwich structure (1A); the outer portions (13, 14) having greater rigidity than the inner portion (15), these portions being stably joined together to form a single body (1A).



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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			A43B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 1 March 2001	Examiner DECLERCK, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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