

PRESS RELEASE

EFIC position paper: European Furniture industry embraces EU circularity objectives

21 April 2020 – The European Furniture Industries Confederation welcomes the *New Circular Economy Action Plan* published by the European Commission on 11 March 2020, strongly supports circularity ambitions and is ready to be involved in making circular economy - a key enabler of the EU's climate and environmental goals - a reality, by providing sector specific-expertise whenever needed.

For the European Furniture industries, 'circularity' is not only a trendy buzzword. Our companies are gradually adapting and changing business models, actively transitioning from traditional to lifecycle design to prolong the life of products and materials and constantly promoting circular loops such as reuse, refurbishment, remanufacturing and recycling.

Much remains to be determined in the path to circularity. What is certain is that a true circular economy can only be achieved through a holistic approach and requires the involvement of many actors, including policy makers, industry, experts, academia and consumers. Also, a like-minded and aligned approach to circularity will yield the strongest results. It is therefore crucial that circular economy rules are harmonised at EU level to prevent that misaligned initiatives at Member State level jeopardise the success of the EU initiatives and lead to the fragmentation of the Internal Market. As such, the European Commission must closely monitor Member States efforts on circular economy. As an example, EU legislation should provide clear definitions for parameters measuring circularity, such as 'long lifetime', 'durability', 'repairability', 'reuse', 'recyclability', among others, to ensure a clear understanding for all players involved.

'Our industry is fully aligned on the need to optimize resources, to stimulate markets for circular products and services and to reduce the environmental footprint of the EU economy. We look at circularity as an opportunity, both to grow as an industry, by constantly adapting our business models and putting on the market innovative and sustainable products, but also to contribute to alleviating the climate challenge. However, since most of our companies are SMEs and microenterprises, it is crucial that circular economy rules are harmonised at EU level.' said Markus Wiesner, EFIC President.

[Download full position paper 'The Furniture Sector and Circular Economy 2.0' here.](#)

About EFIC

EFIC is the voice of the Furniture industries in Europe. Founded in 2006, EFIC now represents more than the 70% of the total turnover of the industry. Our members come from national federations and single companies. The EU Furniture industry employs around 1 million people in about 120 000 enterprises and generates a turnover of 96 billion Euros.

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