

EFIC Position Paper

in view of ongoing negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Australia

28 April 2020

The European Commission is currently negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Australia, an important export destination for furniture manufacturers, in particular for Italy (3.9% of Australian furniture import), Germany (1.6% of Australian furniture import) and Austria (1.1% of Australian furniture import).^{1 2 3 4} In view of this, the European Furniture Industries Confederation calls on the European Commission to negotiate the liberalisation of furniture products under the future FTA, especially for products with the customs codes listed in the table below, and generally for products falling under the 9401 (seats), 9403 (furniture and parts thereof), 9404 (bed inserts and bedding), 9405 (lamps and lighting fittings) customs codes.

Custom codes⁵

NC 4	NC 8	% DUTIES
9401	94013000	5%
	94016100	5%
	94017100	5%
	94018000	5%
	94019080	5%
9403	94032080	5%
	94033011	5%
	94033019	5%

¹ Data from CSIL World Furniture Outlook 2019-2020 of July 2019.

² In January-November 2019 Australia has been ranked 19th among the destinations of the Italian furniture exports, with a sales volume of € 142.85 million. A decrease of 12% over the same period of previous year and an increase of 48.3% from 2018 to 2012 are recorded. As regards to the wood-construction sector, Australia is the 19th place of destination for Italian exports, with a value of exported goods equal to € 19.66 million and with an increase of 17.4% compared to January-November 2018 and 67.6% from 2012 to 2018.

³ In 2019, Germany's furniture export to Australia reached an export value of over € 1.6 million for swivel chairs with high-adjustable seat, of € 2.5 million for seating with metal frame, upholstered, of € 4.7 million for metal furniture without seating, beds and office furniture, of € 1.5 million for fitted kitchen elements made of wood and of € 1.5 million for other wooden furniture.

⁴ The Austrian furniture industry exports to Australia mainly seating (in 2019 the annual export percentage increased by 55.5% compared to 2018), medical chairs and veterinary furniture (in 2019 the annual export percentage increased by 71.3% compared to 2018), other furniture and parts thereof, bed inserts and bedding (in 2019 the annual export percentage increased by 67.1% compared to 2018) and lighting fittings (in 2019 the annual export percentage increased by 49.2% compared to 2018).

⁵ The table shows the customs codes relating to products of relevance and the tariffs applied in 2019.



European Furniture Industries Confederation

	94033091	5%
	94033099	5%
	94034010	5%
	94035000	5%
	94036010	5%
	94036090	5%
	94038900	5%
	94039010	5%
	94039030	5%
	94039090	5%
9405	94051098	5%
	94054099	5%

For further information, please contact:

EFIC - European Furniture Industries Confederation

A: Rue Montoyer 24, PO Box 2, BE-1000 Brussels

T: 0032 (0)2 287 08 86

E: info@efic.eu