

## PRESS RELEASE

### **11 March 2020 – New Circular Economy Action Plan: misaligned initiatives at Member State level endanger its success**

The European Furniture Industries Confederation welcomes the ambitions of the European Commission announced under the **New Circular Economy Action Plan** of 11 March 2020, as a circular economy is a key enabler of the EU's climate and environmental goals by 2050. As such, the European Furniture industries strongly support the transition to a circular economy, are already embracing circularity principles and are ready to provide sector-specific expertise when needed.

However, the European Furniture industries are concerned about the potential barriers and fragmentation of the EU Internal Market which could result from misaligned initiatives at Member State level implementing the new Circular Economy Action Plan. Therefore, the European Commission must ensure that these are implemented in a harmonised way by Member States. EU-wide harmonised circular economy rules, including definitions of key parameters, are crucial to ensure a level playing field. Some Member States, such as France, are rather advanced with their circular economy agenda (see [anti-waste legislation adopted on 10 February](#)), already setting certain obligations which from a Single Market perspective pose obstacles. This problem will be accentuated if other Member States again set their own rules, leading ultimately to fragmenting the Internal Market and jeopardizing the intra-EU trade.

Many objectives of the new Circular Economy Action Plan are in synergy with those of the **new Industrial Strategy for Europe** of 10 March 2020, which recognises that Europe's industry is central to growth and prosperity. Strong EU policies are needed to help Europe's industry lead the twin transitions towards circularity and digital leadership and to ensure that the European industry remains competitive and benefits from a level playing field.

*“Most of our companies are SMEs and microenterprises, which would greatly benefit from reduced red tape and a deeper harmonisation of the EU Internal Market, including rules on circularity as above. As such, steps to address the barriers to a well-functioning Internal Market are greatly welcome. The same goes for actions aimed at strengthening Intellectual Property rules and at addressing the competitiveness of the European industry vis-à-vis international competitors.”* said Markus Wiesner, EFIC President.

#### **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 accounts for a turnover of 96 billion Euros.

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