

PRESS RELEASE

EFIC position paper: Upcoming sustainable products initiative should consider the complexity of furniture

Brussels, 4 November 2020 – *The European furniture industries welcome initiatives to make sustainable products the norm in Europe and are already transitioning to and promoting circular business models based on reuse, repair, refurbishment and remanufacturing of products. In view of the upcoming sustainable products initiative, we urge EU policymakers to take a holistic approach to ensure a harmonised regulatory framework, to consider the complexity of furniture products and to rely on standardisation bodies and industry expertise in the process.*

Harmonised circular economy rules at EU level - including a harmonised framework on sustainability principles for products and services and common definitions - are key to ensure that all stakeholders have a common understanding and that the Single Market is strengthened. To ensure harmonisation and an effective implementation, EU policymakers should take a holistic approach across EU policies and a long-term view to ensure that the requirements can be replicated across the globe. For this purpose, cooperation with standardisation bodies at both international and European level is key.

The expertise of standardisation bodies – as well as of the industry - should also be considered for developing potential circular design criteria for furniture products. *‘It is crucial to work together with ISO TC 323 and CEN TC 207 and build up on their work on circular economy and to ensure harmonisation’*, said Omar Degoli, chair of EFIC Circular Economy WG and Environmental Adviser at FederlegnoArredo.

Given that developing legislation concerning circular design criteria for furniture is a completely new concept, it should be addressed with a step by step approach. *‘When considering the combinations of policy options, the complexity of furniture products has to be considered. The furniture value chain is complex and the range of products and materials in our sector is very wide. Consequently, only general principles for Ecodesign/circular design as part of ‘effect goals’ should be established at EU level. The technical solutions should be entrusted to the industry in collaboration with the academia,’* said Robin Ljungar, vice-chair of the EFIC Circular Economy WG and Sustainability Manager at TMF.

Download [EFIC position paper](#) containing 20 argumentation points for policymakers.

EFIC is the European Furniture Industries Confederation, representing over 70% of the total turnover of the European Furniture Industries, a sector employing 1 million people in about 120.000 enterprises across the EU and generating a turnover of 96 billion Euros. The EFIC membership is composed of 16 national federations and one individual company member: <https://www.efic.eu/about-our-members>

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