



European Furniture Industries Confederation

EFIC Position Paper

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

28 April 2020

The European Commission is currently negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with New Zealand, an important export destination for furniture manufacturers, in particular for Italy (3.6% of New Zealand furniture import) and Germany (2.0% of New Zealand furniture import)^{1 2 3}, but also for other EU countries such as Austria (0,15% of Austrian furniture export)^{4 5}. 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.

Customs codes ⁶

NC 4	NC 8	% Duties
9401	94016100	5%
	94016900	5%
	94017100	5%
	94017900	5%
	94018000	5%
	94019080	5%
9403	94032080	5%
	94033099	5%
	94034010	5%
	94035000	5%
	94036010	5%
	94036090	5%

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

² New Zealand is placed respectively in the 56th and 82nd place among the destination countries of the Italian export of furniture and wood and construction materials. In January-November 2019 the Italian furniture export reached a value of € 27 million, with a loss of 19% compared to the same period of previous year. However, the export volume of furniture increased by 120.8% from 2012 to 2018.

³ In 2019, Germany’s furniture export to New Zealand reached an export value of over € 1 million for metal furniture without seating, beds and office furniture, and of € 1.4 million for fitted kitchen elements made of wood.

⁴ Data from the Austrian National Statistical Office for 2019.

⁵ The Austrian furniture industry exports to New Zealand mainly seating, medical chairs and veterinary furniture (in 2019 the annual export percentage increased by 1367.8% compared to 2018), other furniture and parts thereof (in 2019 the annual export percentage increased by 62.6% compared to 2018), bed inserts and bedding, lighting fittings (in 2019 the annual export percentage increased by 62.1 compared to 2018).

⁶ The table shows the customs codes relating to products of relevance and the tariffs applied in 2019.



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	94038900	5%
	94039010	5%
	94039090	5%
9405	94051098	5%
	94054099	5%

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