

Mr Thierry Breton
Commissioner for the Internal Market
European Commission
1049 Brussels, Belgium

18 November 2019

Subject: Reinforced collaboration with the European Woodworking and Furniture Industries

Dear Mr Breton,

The European Woodworking and Furniture Industries are key contributors to a prosperous, competitive and sustainable European economy.

The sector includes more than 300.000 companies, employs about 2 million people across the EU and is responsible for a production value of around 230 billion € with overall exports to non-EU countries exceeding 35 billion €. Together, the Woodworking and Furniture Industries are the 2nd largest manufacturing sector by number of enterprises and the 4th by number of persons employed. Moreover, they are key bioeconomy players and providers of climate-positive solutions. The natural carbon storage property of wood and its low-impact processing cycle mean that wood-based products help to mitigate climate change, just by being used.

The signatories of this letter have since always believed that European policies should address the many economic and regulatory related challenges faced by the Woodworking and Furniture industries through a strong, regular and coordinated dialogue with the sector representatives. Because of this, the European Woodworking and Furniture industries have a historical, consolidated and effective cooperation with the European Commission's General Directorate for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs.

Considering the significant value of the entire supply chain, in terms of turnover, import/export and employment in the EU Member States, we urge you to further reinforce the above mentioned collaboration by identifying an interlocutor within your Cabinet in order to set up a more organic and organised dialogue with such an important European Industry.

Signatures of representatives:


Patrizio Antonicoli
Secretary General
CEI-BOIS

Gabriella Kemendi
Secretary General
EFIC

Silvia Melegari
Secretary General
EOS

Clive Pinnington
Managing Director
EPF

Isabelle Brose
Managing Director
FEP





The European Wood & Furniture industry

CEI-BOIS: Founded in 1952, CEI-Bois is the European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries; composed of 18 National Organisations, 4 European Sector Federations as well as 1 Private Industrial Group. The industry employs around 1 million workers in 171 000 companies across the different sub-sectors and generates a turnover of around 133 billion euros.

EFIC is the voice of the united furniture industries in Europe. Founded in 2006 by seven national federations representing furniture producers, EFIC now represents more than the 70% of the total turnover of the industry. EFIC membership is composed of 15 national federations and one single company. The European furniture sector employs about 1 million workers in close to 120 000 companies and is highly export-oriented, mainly intra-EU.

EOS is the European Organization of the Sawmill Industry and represents a sector which comprises 35 000 sawmills across Europe, employs around 250 000 people across the EU and is responsible for a turnover of around 37 billion m³. EOS Members come from 12 countries across Europe and represent about 80% of the total European sawn wood output. The European sawmill industry is a sector chiefly made up of SMEs and microenterprises. The EU sawmill industry processes timber which comes almost exclusively from sustainably-managed European forests.

EPF: The European Panel Federation has members in 25 countries. The EU wood panel industry has a turnover of about 22 billion euro every year, creates over 100 000 jobs directly and counts more than 5 000 enterprises in Europe.

FEP is the European Federation of the Parquet Industry based in Brussels. It reunites 50 European Parquet Producers, 21 major Suppliers to the industry and 8 National associations and represents their interests at all relevant levels. In terms of activity, the total production of parquet in FEP territory exceeds 75 million m² while the consumption is close to 80 million m².
