



European Furniture Industries Confederation

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND THE FURNITURE SECTOR

Tuesday, 27 June 2017

EFIC – THE EUROPEAN FURNITURE INDUSTRIES CONFEDERATION

Rue Montoyer, 24
1000 Bruxelles

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

h. 09.00 - 13:30

Opening Session

09:00 – 11:00

9:00	Registration and breakfast
9:30	<i>Welcoming and introduction</i>
	Ms. Karolina D’Cunha European Commission – DG Environment <i>“Circular Economy - state of implementation and the way forward”</i>
9:45	Mr. Markus Wiesner EFIC – the European Furniture Industries Confederation <i>“Circular Economy: contributions and expectations from the furniture sector”</i>
10:00	Mr. Carsten Wachholz European Environmental Bureau (EEB) <i>“Moving towards circularity in the furniture market: a study on policy scenarios and their potential impacts”</i>
10:15	Mr. Mattia Pellegrini European Commission – DG Growth <i>“Opportunities and challenges for the European furniture sector in the context of the Circular Economy”.</i>
10:30	Q&A
10:45	Coffee break

Panel discussion 1

Which obstacles to Circular Economy in the furniture sector?

11:00 – 12:00

- 11:00 **Mr. Robin Ljungar**
TMF – Swedish Federation of Wood and Furniture Industry
“Prerequisites for a smooth transition to circular economy”
- 11:15 **Mr. Egil Sundet**
EFIC Board Member – Norsk Industri
“The case for Flame Retardant Free Furniture”
- 11:30 **Mr. Joan Marc Simon**
Zero Waste Europe
“Furniture in a Circular Economy: Optimisation or paradigm shift?”
- 11:45 Q&A

Panel discussion 2

How to produce circular furniture?

12:00 – 13:15

- 12:00 **Mr. Paolo Fantoni**
European Panel Federation (EPF)
“From Kyoto Protocol to Circular Economy: the key challenge”
- 12:15 **Ms. Maria Ragnarsson**
Offecct – Swedish Furniture Producer Company
“Offecct Lifecircle: our philosophy and way of making design”
- 12:30 **Mr. Michael Eirup**
Kvist – Danish Furniture Producer Company
“Kvist Industries, part of a solution”
- 12:45 **Mr. Nazzareno Mengoni**
KubeDesign – Italian Furniture Producer Company
“Kubedesign: a circular strategic economy approach for the furniture world”
- 13:00 Q&A

Closing Session

13:15 – 13:30

- 13:15 **Mr. Ado Lõhmus**
Estonian Presidency
“The vision of the upcoming Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU: Eco-innovation as a key-enabler for circular economy”
- 13:30 **EFIC closing remarks**
Lunch Cocktail
EFIC 10th Anniversary - EFIC 2020 Strategy

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



DG Environment, Directorate B
Circular Economy & Green Growth
Unit B1 Sustainable Production,
Products & Consumption
✉ BU-9 06/140
Avenue de Beaulieu 9
B-1160 Brussels

karolina.d'cunha@ec.europa.eu

Ms. Karolina D'Cunha

Deputy Head of Unit "Sustainable Production, Products & Consumption" in the European Commission's Directorate General Environment.

Karolina was part of the Commission's team that prepared the Circular Economy Package adopted in December 2015, and her team is now responsible for the implementation of the parts of the strategy that deal with sustainable products, production and consumption.

Prior to her current job, she was responsible for the implementation and development of waste management policies for over ten years. She was, amongst others, responsible for the implementation of the Waste Framework Directive - the cornerstone piece of European legislation on waste -, as well as legislation on end-of-life vehicles, packaging, electrical and electronic equipment, and other waste streams.

In 2013, she concluded negotiations on the Ship Recycling Regulation and the review of the Packaging Directive which restricted the distribution of single-use plastic bags in supermarkets.



Wiesner-Hager Möbel GmbH • 4950
Altheim • Linzerstraße 22

m.wiesner@wiesner-hager.com

Mr. Markus Wiesner

EFIC President and CEO Wiesner-Hager Möbel GmbH

Markus is CEO of Wiesner-Hager and thanks to his leadership the company has become one of the leading European office and property's producers with an export rate of 56%. The company employs over 300 people throughout the Group. In the past fiscal year 2016/17 the sales amounted to 37 million euros.

In addition to his entrepreneurial professional activities, Markus has been holding leading positions for many years as a representative of companies' interests. He has been Austrian Wood Industries' spokesman for environment for ten years and has also chaired the Austrian furniture industry for ten years.

Since 2012 he has been working as President of the EFIC, the European Furniture Industries Confederation based in Brussels.



EEB, Boulevard Waterloo 34, 1000
Brussels

carsten.wachholz@eeb.org

Mr. Carsten Wachholz

Senior Policy Officer on Resources Conservation and Product Policy European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

At the EEB Carsten is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan. He advocates for the EU to match its rhetoric on resource efficiency with ambitious proposals in the areas of eco-design, labelling and related fields of product policy.

Before coming to Brussels, Carsten was deputy head of the department for environmental protection at the headquarters of German NGO NABU, where he worked on climate change, energy policy and sustainable development. He also gained expertise as a consultant in facilitating stakeholder communications, public participation and conflict resolution.

The EEB is Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations. It represents around 140 civil society organisations from more than 30 European countries.



DG Growth, Directorate C Industrial Transformation and Advanced Value Chains - Unit 2 Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials
Avenue d'Auderghem 45
1040 Bruxelles
Postal address: building BREY -
1049 - Bruxelles / Brussel

Mattia.pellegrini@ec.europa.eu

Mr. Mattia Pellegrini

Head of Unit for Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials” in the European Commission's Directorate General Growth

Mattia worked as Head of Cabinet of former Commissioner Nelli Feroci and as a Member of the Cabinet of the Vice president of the European Commission, in charge of Enterprise and Industry. He was Deputy Head of Unit at the European Commission in the Strategy and Analysis Unit of DG Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO).

He has also worked in DG Environment, where he was responsible for WTO negotiations on Trade and Environment, and in DG Competition (Merger Task Force).

Since 2012, he is Head of the Unit on “Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials” in charge of the policies related to the furniture sector at the EU level.

Mattia has a Master’s Degree in European Legal Studies obtained at the College of Europe, Bruges, and a postgraduate diploma in EC Law obtained at L.U.I.S.S. “Guido Carli”, University of Rome.



TMF – Swedish Federation of Wood and Furniture Industry
Box 55525, SE-102 04 Stockholm

robin.ljungar@tmf.se

Mr. Robin Ljungar

Sustainability Manager at TMF Swedish Federation of Wood and Furniture Industry

Robin is an expert Chemical Engineer with more than 20 years of experience within the international woodworking industry in general and the furniture industry in particular. Previously he was Laboratory Manager and Market Support Manager within AkzoNobel. Today, he is TMF's Sustainability Manager focusing on sustainable industrial development, strong business and market-driven competition on equal terms.

TMF is the Swedish trade and employers’ association which represents approximately 700 member companies who jointly have around 30.000 employees.



Norsk Industri
Pb 7072 Majorstuen,
N-0306 Oslo

Egil.Sundet@norskindustri.no

Mr. Egil Sundet

Director of Norsk Industri The Association of Norwegian Furniture and Interior Industry

Egil has an extensive knowledge of the furniture sector being adviser and ambassador of the Norwegian Furniture Industry Association for more than 15 years. Egil is currently the Director of Norsk Industri branch on furniture and interior as well as Board member in EFIC, the European Furniture Industries Confederation.

Within EFIC, he is the *rappporteur* for the Case for Flame Retardants Free Furniture, which aims at promoting Circular Economy’s principles in the furniture sector by avoiding the use of potentially harmful substances in furniture products.



Zero Waste Europe
Rue de la Pépinière 10,
1000 Bruxelles

jm.simon@zerowasteurope.eu

Mr. Joan Marc Simon

Director of Zero Waste Europe (ZWE)

Joan Marc is based in Brussels where he coordinates the work of Zero Waste Europe.

He has been a leading voice for Zero Waste in Europe since 2007, dramatically increasing the visibility and policy impact of Zero Waste efforts in this time. He is a regular keynote speaker in many industry and NGO meetings in Brussels but also at local level as well as internationally. In 2015 he has authored the Zero Waste Case Study “The Story of Contarina” and “The Story of Gipuzkoa” as well as the book “Zero Waste – How to reactivate the economy without trashing the planet”.

With training in Economics and Development Cooperation, he has more than 10 years of experience working with governmental and non-governmental organisations in the field of good governance, new economics, social justice, and environment.



European Panel Federation (EPF)
24, rue Montoyer box 20
B-1000 Brussels

paolofantoni@fantoni.it

Mr. Paolo Fantoni

President of European Panel Federation (EPF)

Since 1980, Paolo has worked in product marketing for the Fantoni Group, of which he is now Managing Director. He is a board member for Novolegno spa, and has also been a board member for Assufficio – Milano since 1992 (the association of Italian office furniture producers), and Vice-President since 2002.

He has been the Vice President and co-founder of EPF in Brussels, the European association of particle board and MDF panel producers, ever since its creation on 1st January 1999. Since 2014 he has been leading the association as Chairman. Since 1996 he has been coordinating the activities of the Fantoni Research Centre, where major cultural, professional and scientific figures have participated and contributed over the years.

He is also Vice-President of Federlegno Arredo, the federation for the Italian wood and furniture sector. On 8 June 2009 the President of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano, presented him with the “National Award for Innovation” for the development of the Climacoustic project, a radiant and sound-absorbent system unlike any other in the world.



Kubedesign S.r.l.
Via Montefanese, 234/A
60027 Osimo (AN) – Italy

nazzareno@kubedesign.it

Mr. Nazzareno Mengoni

CEO Kubedesign - Italian Furniture Producer Company

Nazzareno is the Founder of Kubedesign & President of the Young Entrepreneurs group of FederlegnoArredo, the Italian Federation of woodworking and furniture industries.

Founded in 2011, the company now operates in the main European countries, both for the consumer and contract market.

Architectures in cardboard to model space, technology research and careful planning to the needs of the user, are at the base of the philosophy of Kubedesign. The Kubedesign collection is a design challenge in which sustainability and environmental research in innovative forms meet, placing the focus of the project on the cardboard, a material with great potential.



Ms. Maria Ragnarsson

Quality and Environment Manager OFFECCT – Swedish Furniture Producer Company

Maria has been working at OFFECCT for more than 10 years. She has an extensive knowledge of environmental issues being Sustainability Manager as well as working with overall processes at OFFECCT.

Since 2012 she has been focusing on continuous company's improvements within quality and sustainability. She has a strong professional background in purchasing and general management.

OFFECCT AB
Head office, sales department and
showroom
Box 100
SE-543 21 Tibro

maria.ragnarsson@offecct.se

OFFECCT is a Swedish company founded in 1990, it is internationally recognized for its frontline production in environmentally sustainable, renewable materials and for its innovations in developing products which improve air and sound environments.

Together with designers and architects from around the world, OFFECCT aims at developing furniture with sustainable, functional and attractive design for modern meeting places.

OFFECCT is since May 2017 a part of the Scandinavian Business Seating Group (SBS), an international group focusing on design and development of furniture for working places.



Michael Eirup

Quality Control & Training Manager at Kvist Industries A/S Danish Furniture Producer Company

For the last 10 years Michael has been working with and for the furniture industry, mainly as an adviser. He has been working for Kvist Industries A/S since October 2016. Within the Danish company, he has been closely working on Circular Economy for more than 8 years both on a political and a more practical/functional level. His specific area of expertise and interest is to bring this complex matter down hand on subject for all partners in the chain.

Kvist Industries A/S,
Siggårdsvej 2,
DK-6818 Årre

me@kvist.com

Kvist Industries A/S has a mission of being the “preferred partner” within the wood and furniture industry. In Scandinavia, their aim is to be the best, largest and most complete supplier for customers, who value service and quality.

The Company is currently working with more than 100 different customers who comes to Kvist for using their expertise in developing a chair and afterwards bring it into production. The company is also applying a strategic partnership with both customers and suppliers.



Ado Lõhmus

Deputy Secretary General – Estonian Ministry of the Environment

Since 2012 Ado is working on Deputy Secretary General position in the Estonian Ministry of the Environment, covering environmental management and mineral resources policy areas, issues related with SDGs, circular economy, eco-innovation, environmental impact assessment, industrial emission directive, environmental taxation, environmental monitoring, voluntary schemes and mining policy. Lately was added to his responsibilities waste and chemical management issues.

Estonian Ministry of the
Environment
Narva mnt 7a,
15172 Tallinn

Ado.Lohmus@Envir.ee

Ado is a Member of the Estonian Sustainable Development Committee; Member of the Rail Baltic Development Commission; Member of the Government Commission for cooperation with Local Governments Association; Chair of the committee for Estonian Business Awards on Environment.

During the Estonian Presidency Ado is a theme-leader for all topics among his responsibilities, including waste package, Minamata COP1 and he is chairing WPIEI Global working party (preparing HLPF and UNEA-3).

ABOUT THE FURNITURE SECTOR



130.000 enterprises



1.1 million jobs



€96 billion turnover



1/4 of world furniture produced in EU



45% total world trade



40-45% world imports



40.5% world exports



SMEs predominance

85% micro + 12% small enterprises



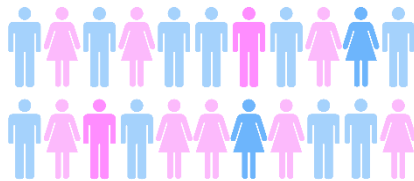
IPR-intensive industry

13% tot. design registrations with OHIM



Global trend-setter

80% global sales design luxury furniture



500 million EU consumers

The EU furniture market

your house



your office



public spaces



ABOUT EFIC

EFIC – the European Furniture Industries Confederation - is the voice of the jointly united European Furniture industries. EFIC was founded in 2006 by seven national federations representing the furniture industries in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey and it was later joined by Portugal, Sweden, Austria, Russia and Norway. Furthermore, Hungary, the Netherlands and France joined EFIC in 2015.

EFIC now represents more than the 70% of the total turnover of the furniture industries in Europe.

For more 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 | M: 0032 (0)447 28 71 34

E: info@efic.eu

W: www.efic.eu

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