

Mr Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for European Green Deal
Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries
Mr Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market

11 March 2020

Subject: Need for harmonised implementation of Green Deal & New Circular Economy Action Plan

The European Furniture Industries Confederation welcomes the ambitions of the European Commission announced under the European Green Deal and New Circular Economy Action Plan. The European Green Deal sets ambitious commitments to tackle climate and environmental-related challenges and to achieve a climate-neutral economy by 2050. A circular economy is a key enabler of these goals. As such, the European Furniture industries strongly support the transition to a circular economy and are ready to make it a reality and to provide sector specific expertise when needed.

Nevertheless, 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 Green Deal and new Circular Economy Action Plan. EU initiatives driving circularity are most welcome, however, 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 an Internal 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.

As such, we call on the European Commission to address the issue and to ensure a smooth and harmonised implementation of Green Deal and Circular Economy initiatives at national level, setting concrete EU-wide rules when needed (definitions, as an example) to avoid a proliferation of differing views.

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.

For further information, please EFIC at:

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