



European Furniture Industries Confederation

Press release

The European furniture industries come together in Milan on the occasion of the SuperSalone

Milan, 8 September 2021 – On the occasion of the Salone del Mobile, one of the flagship events of the furniture sector, representatives of the industry convened in Milan to attend the European Furniture Industries Confederation's (EFIC) Board meeting, hosted by FederlegnoArredo. The meeting featured special guest Mr. Andrea Di Carlo, Deputy Executive Director at EUIPO, the European Union Intellectual Property Office.

The meeting was opened by the remarks of Edi Snaidero, EFIC President. *'We are honored to be FederlegnoArredo's guests in Milan this year on the occasion of the Salone del Mobile and to receive a warm welcome from Maria Porro, President of Assarredo and of Salone del Mobile. We are also pleased to have Mr. Andrea Di Carlo, Deputy Executive Director of EUIPO, as a special guest, to explore collaboration opportunities in relation to EUIPO's Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and measures for design protection. Design is a key aspect of our industry, and the protection of intangible contents remains a priority in order to ensure the competitiveness of the industry.'*

Maria Porro welcomed EFIC members in Milan and highlighted the novelties of this year's Salone, the importance of the sustainability agenda in FederlegnoArredo and the enthusiasm of the industry for the re-start of the Salone.

Mr. Andrea Di Carlo spoke about the EUIPO Strategic Plan 2020-2025, initiatives in support of SMEs and measures for the protection of furniture design, including the revision of the EU's legislation on design protection. EFIC members stressed the need to protect furniture products from counterfeiting and the industry from unfair competition. Mr. Di Carlo also referred to training sessions for associations at national and regional level being organised by EUIPO.

The EFIC membership debated key topics such as the situation of the furniture industries in different Member States in relation to raw materials availability, as well as actions at EU level that can alleviate the negative impact on the industry. The discussion followed on priority files at European level, including circular economy initiatives such as the upcoming Sustainable Products Initiative - which is expected to have a large impact on how furniture will be produced, consumed and discarded in the future - and initiatives related to taxonomy, among others.

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, one individual company member and one cluster: <https://www.efic.eu/about-our-members>

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