

Press release

## Cyprus furniture association PASYVEX hosts EFIC members in Cyprus

**Brussels, 4 October 2023 – Representatives of the European furniture industry convened last week in Protaras, Cyprus, to attend the European Furniture Industries Confederation's (EFIC) Extraordinary General Assembly, hosted by the EFIC member PASYVEX, the Cyprus Furniture & Woodworking Industry Association.**

EFIC members came together to exchange, among others, about the priorities of the European furniture industry in view of the upcoming European Parliament elections and next EU legislative term running from 2024 to 2029. Harmonised EU legislation, a holistic approach on circular economy, raw material availability, fair and free but rules-based trade, protection of intellectual property against counterfeiting and investing in a skilled workforce were some of the priorities raised.

Members also exchanged on the market situation in their countries and reported a generic slowdown, caused by many factors such as a downturn in the building sector, high inflation rates and energy prices and a reduced customer demand for furniture.

EFIC members had the chance to meet with Mr. Kyriakos Hadjiyiannis, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Energy, Trade, Industry and Tourism at the Cyprus Parliament and discuss some of the main challenges the industry is facing, including increased competition from third countries and counterfeiting, fluctuations in raw material availability and a shortage of skilled workers. The group also touched upon the upcoming European Parliament elections of 2024 and key circular economy files such as the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation and upcoming possible requirements.

Maria Varkari (President of PASYVEX) said: *“On behalf of the association, it is an immense honor and privilege to host the General Assembly of the European Furniture Industries Confederation, and to welcome EFIC members in Cyprus. The furniture industry has been a cornerstone of the economy, and it is our shared responsibility to ensure its continued growth and sustainability.”*

Edi Snaidero (President of EFIC) said: *“On behalf of EFIC, I would like to thank PASYVEX for hosting the Extraordinary General Assembly in Cyprus, and Mr. Hadjiyiannis for joining our meeting. It is with a great pleasure that we exchanged together about the challenges and opportunities in our industry.”*

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*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 over 100 billion Euros. The EFIC membership is composed of 18 national associations, one individual company member and several clusters. Further information can be found on our website: <https://www.efic.eu/>*

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