

## **European furniture industry ready to embark on the journey to make sustainable products the norm**

The European Commission published yesterday its long-awaited proposal for a Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products, extending the scope of the current Ecodesign framework to cover the broadest possible range of products. It foresees setting minimum criteria not only for energy efficiency but also for circularity and an overall reduction of the environmental and climate footprint of products.

The categories of products to be selected for the first work plan under the proposed Regulation will be selected via a public consultation by the end of 2022, furniture and mattresses being identified by the Commission as suitable candidates based on a preliminary impact assessment.

Furniture is well suited for a circular economy and many best practices already exist in the furniture industry, which promotes circular design principles and business models based on the extension of the lifetime of products such as repair, refurbishment or remanufacturing.

*'When developing furniture-specific legislation, it will be important to consider the complexity of not only the furniture products but also of the furniture value chain, as well as to ensure harmonisation of rules at European level. The furniture industry, as well as CEN TC 207 on Furniture – and more specifically WG 10 on circularity - is ready to collaborate with policymakers and other stakeholders in this journey to provide sector-specific expertise, including via participation in the Ecodesign Forum which the proposed Regulation announces. We will carefully assess the proposed legislation and liaise with legislators'* said Gabriella Kemendi, EFIC Secretary General.

The proposed legislation will be discussed in a Furniture industry event organised by EFIC on 19 May 2022: <https://www.efic.eu/furnitureday2022>

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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 96 billion Euros. The EFIC membership is composed of 16 national federations, one individual company member and several clusters. Further information: <https://www.efic.eu/>*

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