

## EFIC BRIEFING

### Guidelines on how to comply with Article 17 of the French AGEC Law and its implementing decree (no. 2021-835 of 29 June 2021) on consumer information regarding the sorting label

*12 September 2022*

#### **What is this briefing for?**

This briefing by the European Furniture Industries Confederation (EFIC) is intended to support the furniture industry in understanding and applying Article 17 of the French AGEC Law and Decree no. 2021-835 of 29 June 2021<sup>1</sup> that establishes the legal basis for consumer information regarding the sorting label. The aim of the briefing is to prepare furniture manufacturers in providing their customers with the information they need and ensure manufacturers are in compliance with the new regulatory requirements.

#### **Disclaimer**

This information has been prepared on the basis of CITEO Guide on the new sorting label for household packaging (April 2022 – attached to this document), and in coordination with several EFIC members, such as VDM and l'Ameublement Français.

However, we cannot accept liability for the relevance, accuracy, or completeness of the information and material. The information contained does not go into all details of registration and labeling, as this information can in part only be obtained after registration with the corresponding approved French manufacturers' associations via their special guides. Therefore, in any case, this additional information has to be taken into account during the implementation. The information contained represents the EFIC interpretation of the underlying law(s)/regulation(s)/information and in no way constitutes an official interpretation of the requirements set out in the law(s)/regulation(s)/information itself.

The content of this document is only a recommendation and is not binding on any party.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/LEGIARTI000043717647/2021-07-01/>

## **TRIMAN system – background information**

As of 1 January 2022, the “Triman” system applies to all products in sectors covered by Extended Producer Responsibility in France. This signage consists of the Triman symbol and details of the procedures for sorting or transferring waste resulting from the product and must be provided in close proximity to the product.

This harmonised label providing sorting instructions (Sorting Info) is:

- **mandatory from 1 January 2022. It will need to be accompanied by the Triman logo**, whether the packaging is recyclable or not, **with 9 March 2023 as the cut-off date.**
- governed by strict rules approved by the public authorities. The label and the guidelines for its use have been approved by the French Ministry for Ecological Transition and the French Ministry for the Economy and Finance, and are now the standard marking, easily recognised by consumers. Consequently, **all previous markings (standard or customised) will no longer be permitted from 9 March 2023.**
- adjustable. Although governed by strict rules, the Sorting Info has nevertheless been designed to be adapted where possible to the needs and constraints of companies. It is available in different formats, sizes, and colours.
- tested and approved by consumers.

The legislation mentions a **few exceptions**: glass beverage bottles and any packaging smaller than 20 cm<sup>2</sup> in size may be exempted or subject to slightly different labelling obligations.<sup>2</sup>

## **Why has this system been put in place?**

Asking consumers to systematically do more may prove counter-productive, especially with regard to consumers who only sort occasionally. This additional effort may also make consumers question how committed companies are to eco-design principles.

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<sup>2</sup> Special cases: 1) Glass packaging for beverages 2) Packaging items less than 10 cm<sup>2</sup> in size; Packaging items between 10 and 20 cm<sup>2</sup> in size 3) Small cylindrical or spherical packaging

## HOUSEHOLD PACKAGING

**How does the system apply to products covered by other EPR schemes? Joint implementation for products covered by several EPR schemes.**

The French Ministry for Ecological Transition announced an agreement in principle on the joint implementation of Sorting Info for products covered by the EPR scheme for **household packaging** as well as one or more other EPR schemes at the same time. This concession applies to EPR streams having submitted their final Sorting Info proposals before the end of 2021.

Please note that **in France, all packaging (including transport packaging for furniture) is to be considered "household packaging"**.<sup>3</sup>

### Timeline for implementation

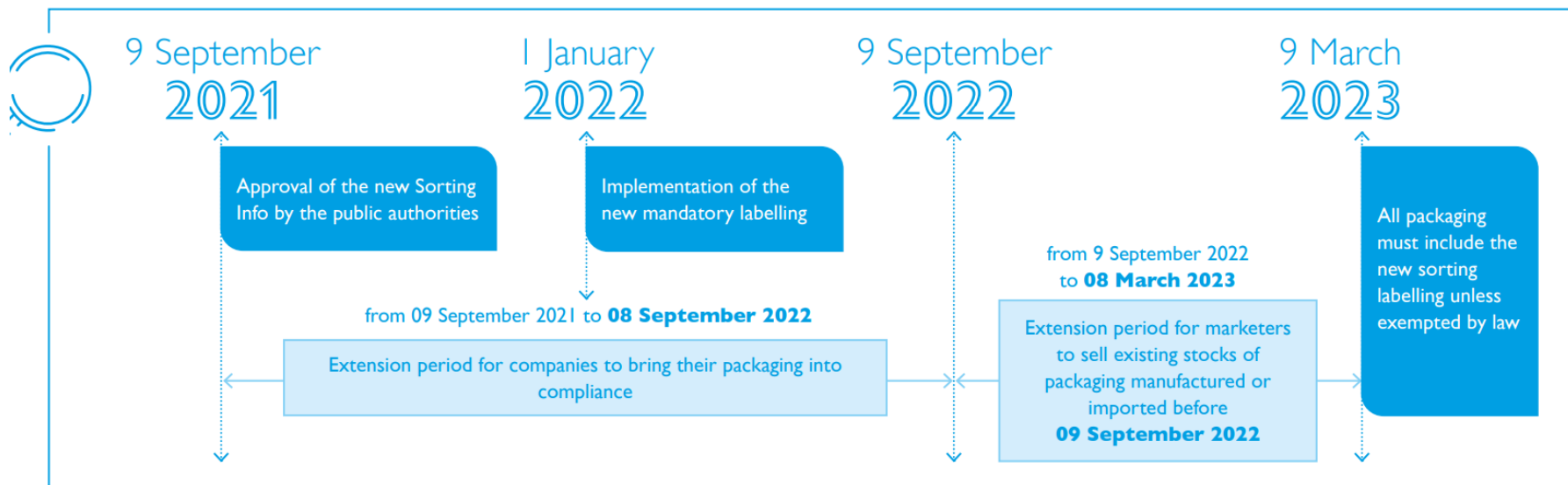


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<sup>3</sup> This is handled differently in other countries (e.g. Germany) --> in Germany, typical "furniture to take away" (flatpack) is considered household packaging. The transport packaging of furniture that is assembled by trade fitters, on the other hand, is not "household packaging".

## FURNITURE

### Overview of existing and planned EPR schemes (selection of schemes relevant for furniture industry; status August 2022)

Starting year	EPR schemes	Description
before 2022	Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE)	Household products, lamps, fire extinguishers and electronic products for professional use.
before 2022	Batteries	Portable batteries, car batteries and industrial batteries
before 2022	Printed materials	e.g. operating/assembly instructions, warranty documents
before 2022	Packaging	Cartons and product packaging
before 2022	Furniture	Furniture for private households and businesses
before 2022	Textiles	Clothing textiles, household linen
2022	Building products	Building products for trade and private households (e.g. washbasins)
2022	Toys	Toys, unless they fall under another EPR category (e.g. EEE)

### Timeline for implementation



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→ Please note that “paper” means printed materials e.g. User instructions!

## Registration requirements - Labelling Manufacturer definition

### Definition of manufacturer associated with the registration/labelling obligations.

In the following cases, the actors are "manufacturers within the meaning of the French law":

1. Manufacturer produces in France
2. Importer/distributor imports products into France
3. Distributor purchases from France and sells under its own brand name
4. Manufacturer/distributor outside France supplies end customers directly



Cases in which non-French manufacturers can become "manufacturers within the meaning of the French law":


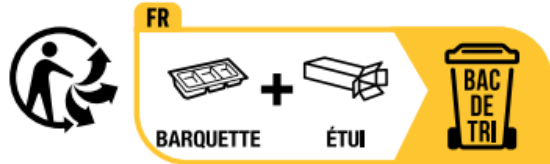

1. Manufacturer/distributor outside France supplies end customers directly (see also case 4 above).
2. Manufacturer outside France "releases" French distributor/sales subsidiary from their "manufacturer obligations" via a bilateral agreement.

Note regarding the labelling with the segregation instructions:

*In practice, it will make the most sense for the non-French manufacturer to carry out the labelling, even if he is usually not the "manufacturer" in the sense of French law.*

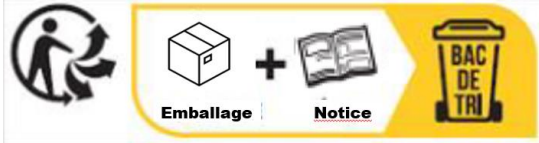
## Registration requirements - Labelling Reuse/ Recycling Overview

Product/ Packaging/ Printed matter	State-approved manufacturer associations	Responsible for registration →Registration number ("identifiant unique")	TRIMAN- Mandatory labelling	Identification label (exemplary representation! →For exact regulations and O-labels, see Label reference column)	Label reference over:
Furniture (B2C → end customers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eco-Mobilier</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Importer (usually French distributor)</li> <li>In the case of direct sales to end customers from abroad &gt; F: Distributor (manufacturer if applicable)</li> </ul>	Yes		<p>AHK-France → leaflet: "<u>Marking Triman/ Green Dot</u>"</p> <p>*the website is only available in FR and DE</p>
Furniture (B2B →"contract business"; office furniture..)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valdelia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Importer (usually French distributor)</li> <li>for direct sales to customers from abroad &gt; F: distributor (manufacturer if applicable)</li> </ul>	No		
Electrical appliances (cooker, dishwasher...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EcoLogic or Ecosystem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Importer (usually French distributor)</li> <li>for direct sales to end customers from abroad &gt; F: distributor (manufacturer if applicable)</li> </ul>	Yes		<p>AHK-France → leaflet: "<u>Marking Triman/ Green Dot</u>"</p> <p>*the website is only available in FR and DE</p>

<p>Batteries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COREPILE or</li> <li>• SCRELEC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Importer (usually French distributor)</li> <li>○ for direct sales to end customers from abroad &gt; F: distributor (manufacturer if applicable)</li> </ul>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>manufacturer association after registration or registered distributor</p>
<p>Household packaging of products Note: All furniture packaging is considered as "household packaging"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITEO or</li> <li>• Adelphe or</li> <li>• LÉKO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Importer (usually French distributor)</li> <li>○ in case of direct sales to end customers from abroad &gt; F: distributor (manufacturer if applicable)</li> </ul>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>manufacturer association after registration or registered distributor</p>
<p>Printed matter enclosed with the product (assembly/operating instructions)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITEO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Importer (usually French distributor)</li> <li>○ In the case of direct sales to end customers from abroad &gt; F: Distributor (manufacturer if applicable)</li> </ul>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>manufacturer association after registration or registered distributor</p>

### Registration requirements - Labelling Re-use/ Recycling Overview

Product/ Printed matter	Packaging/ label	Place of application of the label	Responsible for applying the label	Deadlines	Notes
Furniture (B2C → end customers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Product or packaging or document provided with the product (e.g. instruction manual)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Product or packaging or document provided with the product (e.g. instruction manual)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Registered distributor/ manufacturer</li> <li>○ Practice: non-French manufacturer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 9 December 2022</li> <li>○ 9 June 2023 → for furniture manufactured or imported before December 2022</li> </ul>	The term "furniture" is subdivided into 11 categories (including household furniture, kitchen furniture, seating furniture). This also includes all supplied components, unless they are covered by other EPR schemes (e.g. EEE).
Furniture (B2B → "contract business"; office furniture..)	-----	-----	-----	-----	
Electrical appliances (cooker, dishwasher...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Product or packaging or Document provided with the product (e.g. operating instructions)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Product or packaging or Document provided with the product (e.g. operating instructions)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Registered distributor/ manufacturer</li> <li>○ Practice: non-French manufacturer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 15 December 2022</li> <li>○ 15 June 2023 → for electrical appliances manufactured or imported before 15 December 2022</li> </ul>	
Batteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Product or packaging or Document provided with the product (e.g. operating instructions)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Product or packaging or Document provided with the product (e.g. operating instructions)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Registered distributor/ manufacturer</li> <li>○ Practice: non-French manufacturer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 15 December 2022</li> <li>○ 15 June 2023 → for batteries/ accumulators manufactured or imported before 15 December 2022</li> </ul>	
Household packaging of products Note: All furniture packaging is considered as "household packaging"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Packaging</li> </ul> <p>Please note that for <b>household furniture packaging</b> you can put all the sorting instructions (for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Packaging</li> </ul> <p>Please note that for <b>household furniture packaging</b> you can put all the sorting instructions (for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Registered distributor/ manufacturer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 9 September 2022</li> <li>○ 9 March 2023 → for packaging produced or</li> </ul>	Information for packaging and printed product can be combined on the label

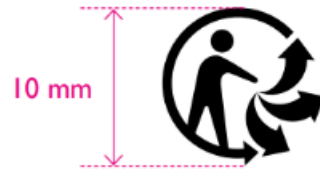
	Packaging, for furniture and for printed documents) only on the furniture packaging, if you think it is the easiest solution for your company. In this case, the deadline is the <b>deadline for furniture: 9/12/2022 and 9/06/2023.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practice: non-French manufacturer</li> </ul>	imported before 9 September 2022	 <p>Principle illustration! Details (e.g. designations, symbols) to be checked via CITEO - Guideline after registration!</p>
Printed matter enclosed with the product (assembly/operating instructions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Printed product or</li> <li>Packaging</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered distributor/manufacturer</li> <li>Practice: non-French manufacturer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 September 2022</li> <li>9 March 2023 → for printed matter manufactured or imported before 9 September 2022.</li> </ul>	See above

## The Triman logo

The Triman logo is the symbol that informs the consumer that the product or packaging needs to be sorted or brought to a recycling point. In compliance with Article 17 of the AGEC Law, information on the sorting rule should also feature alongside the logo (in this case, Sorting Info for household packaging). Specific information on size in accordance with the original terms of use for the symbol, issued by Ademe<sup>4</sup>, the Triman logo should not be smaller than a given minimum size:

<sup>4</sup> When the Triman logo was created by Ademe in 2015, the aim was to inform the consumer that the product or packaging was recyclable and should be sorted accordingly. The logo was mandatory on recyclable packaging, or otherwise on the product instructions or other media (electronic included). The French AGEC Law modified the meaning of the Triman logo and the rules for using it: the symbol became mandatory on all packaging associated with a sorting or bring recycling rule, regardless of recyclability (with the exception of a few cases)

## Standard minimum size



## Compact minimum size



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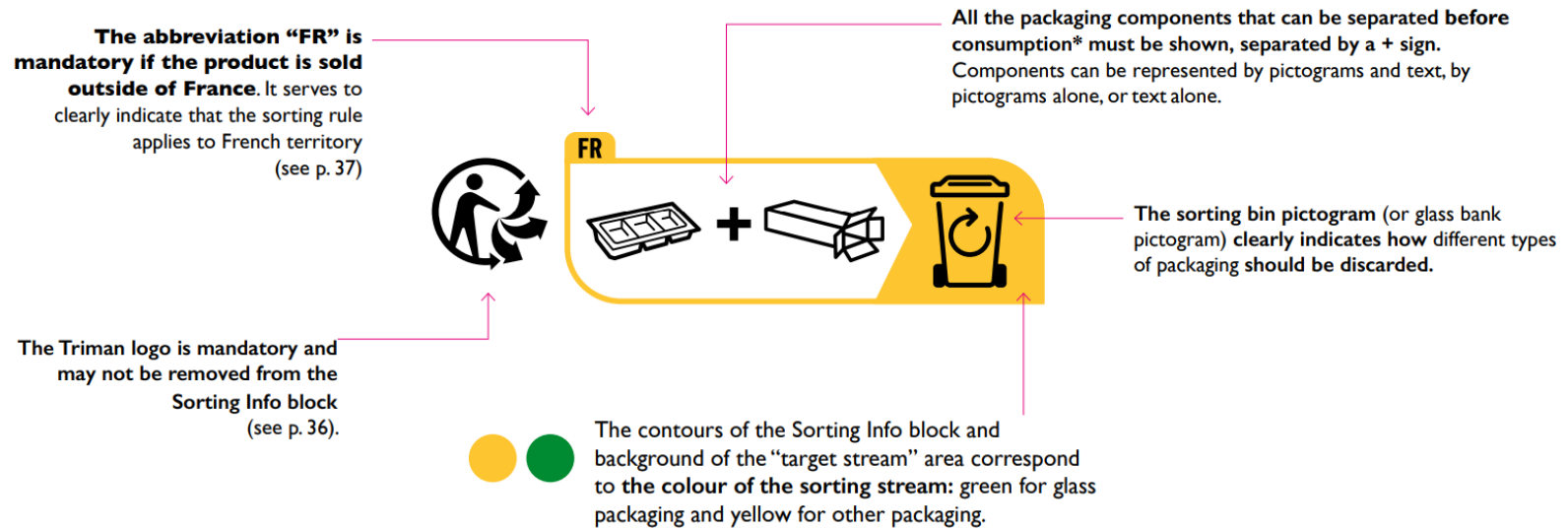


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## Other useful information

- All the packaging components that can be separated during consumption must be shown, separated by a + sign. **Components can be represented by pictograms and text, by pictograms alone, or text alone.** If packaging includes three components or more, you are permitted to use the standard phrase “packaging items”.
- **What is an element that can be “separated during consumption”?** This is an element that needs to be removed or separated from the main packaging to access the product (e.g. a cover or lid on a pot, a tube in a box, etc.). Packaging components that do not need to be removed for the product to be consumed (e.g. a pump or spray on a bottle, a sleeve on a bottle or pot, etc.) should not be mentioned in the Sorting Info, they are part of the main packaging element.
- How to deal with B2B packaging? **Only household (domestic) packaging is impacted, not B2B packaging.**
- **Colour:** Where there is a sorting rule that is applicable both in France and in other countries concerned, colours other than black and white are prohibited as the colour coding for sorting streams may vary from one country to another.
- **Where must the marking be placed?** The new marking must be placed on the product or the packaging or a document provided with the product (e.g. assembly/operating instructions, warranty document, etc.). This can take the form of a sticker or the imprint of the corresponding label. The provision of information on the website remains possible but does not replace the labelling according to one of the three labelling locations mentioned above.

## Manufacturer associations - Information/ Links

EPR category	Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO)	General information	Registration
WEEE	<b>Ecosystem</b> (electrical and electronic equipment, lamps, fire extinguishers) <b>Ecologic</b> (Electrical and electronic equipment, fire extinguishers)	<a href="https://www.ecosystem.eco/fr/article/mon-statut#producteurs">https://www.ecosystem.eco/fr/article/mon-statut#producteurs</a> <a href="https://www.ecologic-france.com/professionnels/fabricants.html">https://www.ecologic-france.com/professionnels/fabricants.html</a>	<a href="https://www.ecosystem.eco/fr/formulaire/adhesion-producteur">https://www.ecosystem.eco/fr/formulaire/adhesion-producteur</a> <a href="https://www.ecologic-france.com/contact.html">https://www.ecologic-france.com/contact.html</a>



European Furniture Industries Confederation

Batteries	<b>Corepile</b> <b>Screlec</b>	<a href="https://www.corepile.fr/vous-etes/metteurs-sur-le-marche/">https://www.corepile.fr/vous-etes/metteurs-sur-le-marche/</a>  <a href="https://www.screlec.fr/producteurs-et-metteurs-sur-le-marche-piles-et-accumulateurs/eligibilite-des-adherents/">https://www.screlec.fr/producteurs-et-metteurs-sur-le-marche-piles-et-accumulateurs/eligibilite-des-adherents/</a>	<a href="https://www.corepile.fr/vous-etes/metteurs-sur-le-marche/">https://www.corepile.fr/vous-etes/metteurs-sur-le-marche/</a>  <a href="https://www.screlec.fr/producteurs-et-metteurs-sur-le-marche-piles-et-accumulateurs/comment-adherer/">https://www.screlec.fr/producteurs-et-metteurs-sur-le-marche-piles-et-accumulateurs/comment-adherer/</a>
Packaging/printed products	<b>Citeo</b> (Packaging & Printed Products) <b>Léko</b> (Packaging)	<a href="https://www.citeo.com/devenir-client">https://www.citeo.com/devenir-client</a>  <a href="https://www.leko-organisme.fr/services/entreprise-extranet/">https://www.leko-organisme.fr/services/entreprise-extranet/</a>	<a href="https://clients-emballages.citeo.com/fr/public/login/espace-adhesion">https://clients-emballages.citeo.com/fr/public/login/espace-adhesion</a>  <a href="https://producer-app.affiliate.leko.eco/affiliate">https://producer-app.affiliate.leko.eco/affiliate</a>
Furniture (household and commercial)	<b>Eco-Mobilier</b> (private households) <b>Valdelia</b> (only furniture for trade)	<a href="https://espace-services.eco-mobilier.fr/">https://espace-services.eco-mobilier.fr/</a>  <a href="https://www.valdelia.org/recycler-ses-meubles-professionnels-usages/">https://www.valdelia.org/recycler-ses-meubles-professionnels-usages/</a>	<a href="https://espace-services.eco-mobilier.fr/service/comment-adherer-a-eco-mobilier">https://espace-services.eco-mobilier.fr/service/comment-adherer-a-eco-mobilier</a>  <a href="http://www.valdelia.org/adherents-valdelia/devenir-adherent/">http://www.valdelia.org/adherents-valdelia/devenir-adherent/</a>

In your countries, you can reach out to your national chambers of commerce (via European Enterprise Network)

<https://een.ec.europa.eu/about/branches>

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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 17 national associations, one individual company member and several clusters. [www.efic.eu](http://www.efic.eu)*