

PRESS RELEASE FEP

EUROPEAN MARKETS ARE MAINLY IN A POSITIVE MOOD WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GERMANY

The Board of Directors of the European Federation of the Parquet Industry met on 4 April 2018 and discussed amongst others both the parquet situation and recent economic indicators on the European market.






The European markets are generally in a positive mood and experience slight growth. When compared to the same period last year, the provisional results for the first quarter of 2018 point to a continuation of the moderately positive parquet consumption trends observed in 2017 with the exception of Germany which is reporting a significant decrease.

Projects are the main driver of the market although renovation should create additional activity. In spite of the long and wet winter, the availability of raw material is not a critical issue for the time being. Nevertheless, as efficient harvesting has been demanded from forest-owners and sawmillers, small formats are now unfortunately lacking.

A brief per country recap is provided in the table below.

Market overview

Austria 	The Austrian parquet sales continued to increase by 2% during the first quarter 2018 compared to the same period last year.
Belgium 	The indications available point towards a growth of 3% of the parquet consumption during the first three months of 2018.
Baltic States 	Baltic countries' markets are showing a slightly positive trend during the first quarter 2018.
Denmark 	The Danish parquet market remains flat, reflecting the decrease on the retail market which is compensated by the increases observed for contracts and projects.
Finland 	Parquet sales slightly rise by 1% on the Finnish market – (large) projects are the main driver of this moderate growth while the residential market is stable.
France 	The French market continues to develop positively. Parquet sales grew by an estimated 2% during the first quarter 2018.
Germany 	Data indicate that parquet sales fell by 5% during the first quarter of the current year, compared to the first quarter 2017 which was good. This decrease reflects the subdued residential market, the lack of installers which leads to shifting of projects, the competition from "wood look" floor coverings and the disappearing spaces for hardwood flooring on shelves in DIY.
Italy 	Parquet sales rose by 2% during the first quarter 2018 and continued to benefit from the positive economic developments observed in Italy.

Netherlands 	The information received points to a confirmation of the improvements already observed on the Dutch market – parquet sales increased by an estimated 3% during the first quarter 2018.
Norway 	Compiled data indicate that the Norwegian market is flat to slightly improving (0-1%) during the first months of 2018.
Spain 	Despite the turbulent political situation, the Spanish market seems to evolve slowly but positively by 1 to 2% during the first quarter of the year 2018.
Sweden 	The trends observed in 2017 are continuing and the parquet consumption rose by 2% during the first quarter 2018 compared to the same period last year. Sales in retailing decrease while project markets keep growing. Sweden is currently the most dynamic market in Scandinavia.
Switzerland 	Parquet consumption remains flat but at a high level in Switzerland during the first months of 2018. There are lots of large on-going renovation projects.

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