



European Federation of the Parquet Industry
Fédération Européenne de l'Industrie du Parquet
Föderation der Europäischen Parkett-Industrie

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PRESS RELEASE FEP

European Parquet Market progressively back to green figures

After a year in which the consumption figures of the European Parquet Industry contracted by more than 6%, the first estimates for 2015 paint a more optimistic picture. Indeed, FEP's (European Federation of the Parquet Industry) preliminary forecast for the year which just ended indicates a stabilisation in parquet sales across Europe, with an upward tendency during the last months. This projection is based on information received from member country representatives present at the recent Board meeting held at the DOMOTEX fair in Hannover. The slight global European market growth of 0.5% should be seen as a first prognosis subject to variations, in anticipation of the complete data to be communicated at FEP's annual General Assembly next June in Thun, Switzerland.

As was witnessed in the past few years, the results show some variation from country to country but, for the first time since long, the Southern European markets, including Spain, seem to be gaining in momentum. From a regional perspective, the good news comes mainly from the Swedish and Hungarian markets both showing a sound growth. The Netherlands, Belgium, Poland and to a lesser extent France are also performing well while the important German, Austrian and Swiss parquet markets remain stable at a high level.

As far as specific parquet products are concerned, wooden planks continue to attract customers. The gap between large planks and 3-strip parquet products is slowly but surely closing. Competition from other flooring solutions is still fierce. This is especially the case with LVT's, which are gaining market shares, also in the residential market.

Generally speaking, the captains of the parquet industry point to increased prices of raw materials due to shortages in the market. The fact that it is becoming increasingly difficult for consumers to differentiate parquet from competitive flooring alternatives with a wood look surface, is also a growing source of concern for parquet producers. Nonetheless, they are convinced that parquet has a really bright future as it remains the only REAL product versus wood look-a-like products made from vinyl or ceramics. Parquet is a natural high-quality product, made of a true sustainable and renewable raw material: WOOD.

General Assembly 2016

As announced at last year's meeting in Bordeaux, FEP's 60th General Assembly and 41th Parquet Congress will be held on 16 & 17 June 2016 in the beautiful city of Thun, Switzerland. The Swiss member federation and companies as well as FEP look forward to welcoming all members, international guests, press representatives and colleagues at this unique annual gathering of the European Parquet Industry.

FEP, Brussels, January 2016

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