



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

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European Parquet Market confirms and consolidates its growth

According to the first estimates of FEP (European Federation of the Parquet Industry) for the year which just ended, the consumption figures of the European Parquet Industry, after increasing by 0.5% in 2015, progress further by 2% in 2016. This forecast, which is based on information received from member country and company representatives present at the recent Board meeting held at the DOMOTEX fair in Hannover, reflects an improvement in parquet sales across Europe. It 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 Budapest, Hungary.

As usual, the results present some variation from country to country whereby almost all countries, with the exception of Finland, show positive developments. From a regional perspective, Sweden, Czech Republic, The Netherlands and Belgium are experiencing the highest growths, followed by France and Poland. As regards the Southern European markets, Spain, which is still recovering from low levels of consumption, can count on a favourable economic context while Italy is facing risks of a potential political and economic crisis. Austria and Germany, the largest European market, are both growing as well. The Hungarian consumption is also improving but to a lesser extent, while the Swiss parquet market remains stable.

Besides these positive and encouraging trends, the captains of the parquet industry continue to underline the growing shortage of oak as primary raw material source. Nevertheless, a modest increase in the demand for beech and other wood species is now observed - by all means an encouraging trend.

The parquet industry representatives also point to the general uncertainties about the political developments worldwide, including in the EU and the US, which could also have an impact on the European parquet sector.

Despite the harsh competition from flooring alternatives especially those with a *wood look* surface, the FEP Board of Directors trusts that end consumers will be increasingly convinced by the inherent advantages of European Real Wood parquet products, their quality, sustainable aspect and the fact that Real Wood floors are bringing nature straight into their homes thereby contributing to the mitigation of climate change.

General Assembly 2017

As announced at last year's annual meeting in Thun, FEP's 61st General Assembly and 42nd Parquet Congress will be held on 15 & 16 June 2017 in the vibrant city of Budapest, Hungary. The Hungarian member companies and FEP look forward to welcoming all members, international guests, press representatives and colleagues at this exclusive annual gathering of the European Parquet Industry.

FEP, Brussels, January 2017

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