



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

The Board of Directors of the European Federation of the Parquet Industry met on 20 October 2015 and discussed amongst others both the parquet situation and recent economic indicators on the European market.

Overall, parquet sales on the European market during the first 9 months of 2015 look more or less stable compared to the same period last year. More countries are getting out of the red zone. Positive news comes from Sweden, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Poland and, to a lesser extent, Denmark.

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

Market overview

Austria 	The information provided to FEP points in the direction of a stable market compared to the same period of last year.
Baltic countries 	Indications collected from FEP Board members point towards negative sales figures in the first nine months of 2015.
Belgium 	Consumption and production are both reported to be stable.
Czech Republic 	The Czech parquet market seems to be performing a little better in the first 9 months of 2015 than during the same period in 2014. Growth is estimated to be in the order of 1 to 2%.
Denmark 	The market remains stable, and could even be slightly positive ($\pm 1\%$) when compared to the first 9 months of 2014.
Finland 	Parquet sales are down by an estimated 5 to 8%. The perspectives for next year seem better, with new constructions expected to perform better, in a hesitant market.
France 	Business started out well this year, with sales improving by an estimated 3% during the first months of 2015. The second quarter was still good, before a weaker 3 rd quarter. Overall, this translated into a pretty flat picture.
Germany 	Compiled data indicate that parquet sales in the first 9 months of the current year have remained comparable with the same period of the previous year. DIY markets tend to face more difficulties. LVT remains a strong competitor.
Hungary 	Parquet sales do not seem to improve in Hungary. FEP Board members expect the market is maintaining itself at a stable level compared to the same period last year.
Italy 	Altogether, the consumption of parquet remains stable. Higher taxes weighing heavily on the housing market are reported to be a major problem as well as a harsh competition from China and Eastern Europe.

Netherlands 	The market is characterised by a slight increase (in the order of 1 to 2%) in consumption compared to the first 9 months of 2014. This results in a proportional increase on the production side. The housing market is presently appealing, with a better outlook than in the last 7 years.
Norway 	The Norwegian parquet market is down by an estimated 6%. The retail market is stable.
Poland 	Polish parquet sales are improving by an estimated 3%.
Spain 	Compared to the same period last year, the Spanish parquet market is stable to slightly up (+1%). However, there are no big projects ongoing for the time being as all stakeholders await the results of the elections scheduled to take place on 20 December.
Sweden 	The Swedish market has grown by some 3% in the first three quarters of 2015. Parquet sales should end the year on a positive note.
Switzerland 	For the first time in 5 years, the market remains flat due to the second home initiative - new homes are forbidden in recreational areas - and to immigration. Implications for the future are negative in construction. The renovation business is expected to grow.
United Kingdom 	Estimates are that the total UK market is performing rather well, with parquet sales growing by 4 to 6%. To be confirmed.
Russia 	Parquet sales follow a downwards trend. Exports to Russia follow the same path.

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