

PRESS RELEASE FEP











CONSOLIDATION OF GENERAL MARKET IMPROVEMENT





The Board of Directors of the European Federation of the Parquet Industry met on 19 October 2016 and discussed amongst others both the parquet situation and recent economic indicators on the European market.

The good start observed in many reporting European countries during the first months of the current year has been confirmed during the first semester of 2016, when compared to the same period of last year. Although the reported parquet sales figures are not booming, the positive trend continues and activity seems to consolidate in most of Europe.

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

Market overview

Austria 	The information provided to FEP points in the direction of an increase of the parquet sales by 3% in Austria, reflecting significant increases of investments in buildings.
Belgium 	The Belgian market progressed by an estimated 3% during the first semester of 2016 and is expected to keep this pace up to the end of the current year.
Denmark 	Growing building activities and projects in large cities are supporting a 3 to 5% improvement of the Danish market. This positive development is forecast to continue.
Finland 	The situation in Finland remains the most problematic among European countries. Projects are delayed and the market fell by 15% during the first semester while it is expected to decline by 10% for the whole year.
France 	The first half of the year shows rather good results with an increase by 3% of the French sales although producers of solid wood parquet are not experiencing such positive developments. These trends should continue as there is no reason to expect a sudden turnaround.
Germany 	The German market grew with an estimated 3% in the first six months of the current year but is presently becoming more "difficult".
Italy 	Parquet sales are recovering a bit in Italy by 1 to 2% but from a very low level. Despite increases in bank lending, people are still reluctant to invest. A positive vote on the referendum to support the actual government is necessary to prevent a new crisis.
Netherlands 	The Dutch market upturned during the first semester of 2016 by an estimated 3%. This trend is forecast to continue for the rest of the year.
Norway 	Following significant difficulties, the Norwegian market seems to stabilise.
Poland 	The few information available point to an increase of the Polish market by 1 to 2%. Poland is suffering from the political instability, especially the non residential market.

Sweden 	The market increase which was rather substantial in 2015, shows signs of stabilisation around +5%.
Spain 	The Spanish situation is comparable to Italy. The market rose by 1 to 2% from a very low level and needs political stability to keep this pace.
Switzerland 	The Swiss market is still reflecting the low housing activity connected to the legal limitation of vacation homes' construction. For the first semester of 2016, the parquet market fell by 5 % and is expected to decrease by 3% for the whole year. Nevertheless, no bad news is expected in the future and construction remains the only interesting investment.
United Kingdom 	Board members agree that the UK market remains the most dynamic, especially the residential sector. Brexit has no local impact. The parquet sales rose by 3 to 4% during the first semester of 2016.
Russia	Board members consider that the market remains weak in Russia, where cheaper flooring solutions have more success than parquet.

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For more information, please contact FEP (E. Varga) at +32 2 556 25 87 or via info@parquet.net.