



Press release  
Brussels June 2009

**The European Furniture Manufacturers Federation and its members call on the European and national authorities to support the industry in its confrontation with the economic crisis.**

During its June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in Prague the general council of the UEA approved a common position asking additional measures from the EU and national governments to assist the sector in the economic and structural crisis. The UEA and its members are addressing these demands both to the European and national authorities in the EU member states. The first trimester of 2009 has been catastrophic and most countries expect a still worsening situation for the rest of the year.

“Clearly what initially began as a consumer crisis due to lack of confidence because of the financial crisis has now turned into a full fledged economic recession. The 20% to 50% drop in turnover experienced during the first trimester will certainly become even worse in the rest of the year. The fact that the imports from China into the EU kept on growing in the first months of the year, albeit at a much reduced growth rate indicates that the structural problems of our sector are compounding the economic crisis. So we are asking the authorities not only to increase measures to restore the confidence and improve the credit, but also for measures that improve and compensate the structural competitive deficit caused by the EU regulations.” Newly elected UEA president Martin Cudka explained.

The UEA, the European Furniture Manufacturers Federation was created in 1950 to represent the interests of the furniture industry on European level. It has members that represent the furniture manufacturers in 27 EU and other European countries. Its president is Mr. Martin Cudka (Czech Republic). Mr. Henri Griffon (France) and Mr. John Alston (UK) are vice presidents.

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