



Press release World Furniture Organization one step closer
Paris January 23 2007

Invited by the UEA, representatives from furniture manufacturers organizations from all over the world met in a work group meeting in Paris during the Salon du Meuble on January 22nd 2007 to discuss how to proceed with the creation of a world organization for the furniture industry planned during the first World Furniture Congress organized by the UEA in Palma last May. Subjects on the agenda were a discussion on the statutes, the budget, the choice of the candidate to be proposed as the first president and the choice of the next location of the World Furniture Congress.

The participants who represented 39 countries to which were added written opinions of a number of organizations who could not attend the workgroup meeting, decided to proceed with the formal creation of an organization called World Furniture Confederation during the next world furniture congress. The organization will have members who are either supra national furniture manufacturers organizations or organizations representing the furniture industry in sovereign countries in regions where such supra national organizations do not (yet) exist. On the other hand, the statutes will make it possible for any entity that does not represent furniture manufacturers but is active in the furniture sector to become supportive member. The president will be elected for a three year period in a rotation system based on the large regions of the world. In recognition of the fact that the initiative to create the World Furniture Confederation came from the UEA, the participants asked for the first president to come from Europe. On proposal of UEA president Calixto Valenti, it was agreed that Mr. Rodrigo Rodriguez Honoray president UEA, (see annexed Curriculum Vitae) would be proposed to the General Assembly as the first president of the World Furniture Confederation. As a venue for the next World Furniture Congress during which the official creation of the World Furniture Confederation will take place, on proposal of Ms Zhang Bingbing, CNFA secretary General and vice-president, the participants choose Shanghai during the furniture fair in September. Further preparatory meetings are planned.

Organizations or entities interested in becoming member or supporting member are invited to contact the UEA secretariat secretariat@uea.be