



Sustainability in the furniture industry

Recent developments in Belgium

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Fedustria

- Belgian federation of the Textiles, Wood and Furniture Industries
- Key figures 2022

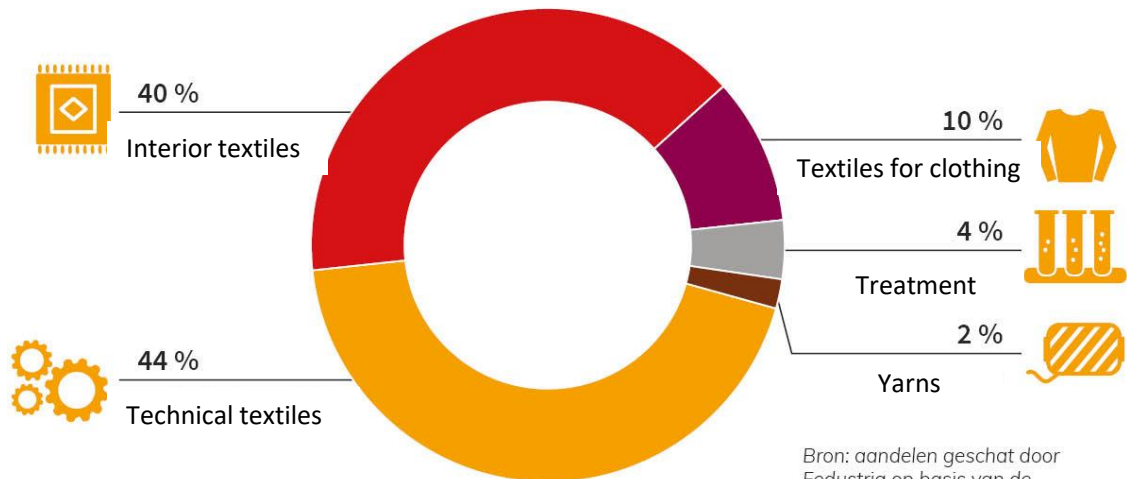
	TOTAL	TEXTILES	WOOD & FURNITURE
Turnover (billion €)	11.9	5.1	6.8
% exports	70%	75%	65%
Trade surplus/deficit	+1.8	+2.5	-0.7
Investments (mio €)	503.4	190.8	312.6
Value added (billion €)	2.5	1.2	1.3
Companies	1,666	571	1,095
Employment	36,237	18,514	17,723
SME (%)	91.4%	87%	93.6%



SUBSECTORS

TEXTILES

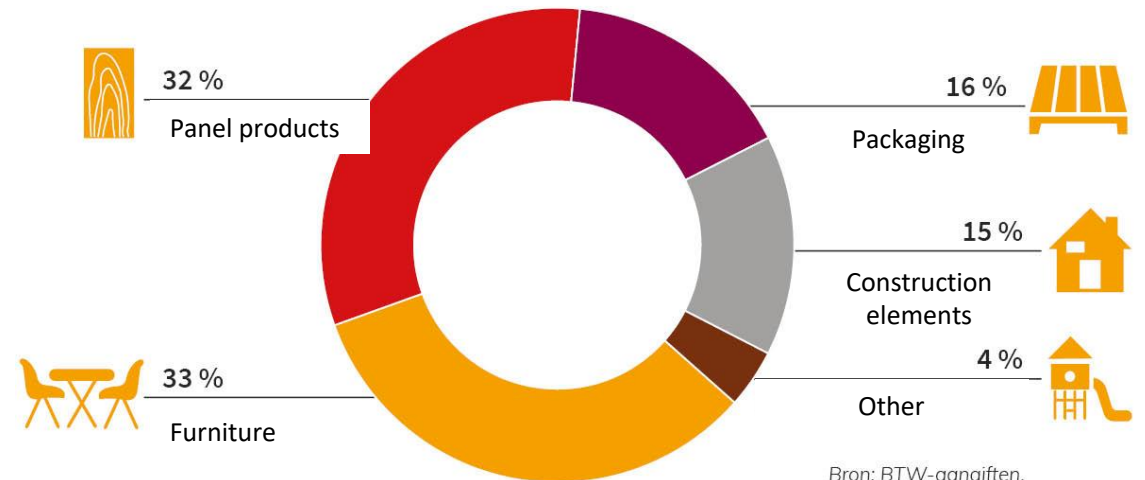
Total turnover 2022 = 5.1 billion €



Bron: aandelen geschat door Fedustria op basis van de toegevoegde waarde

WOOD & FURNITURE

Total turnover 2022 = 6.8 billion €



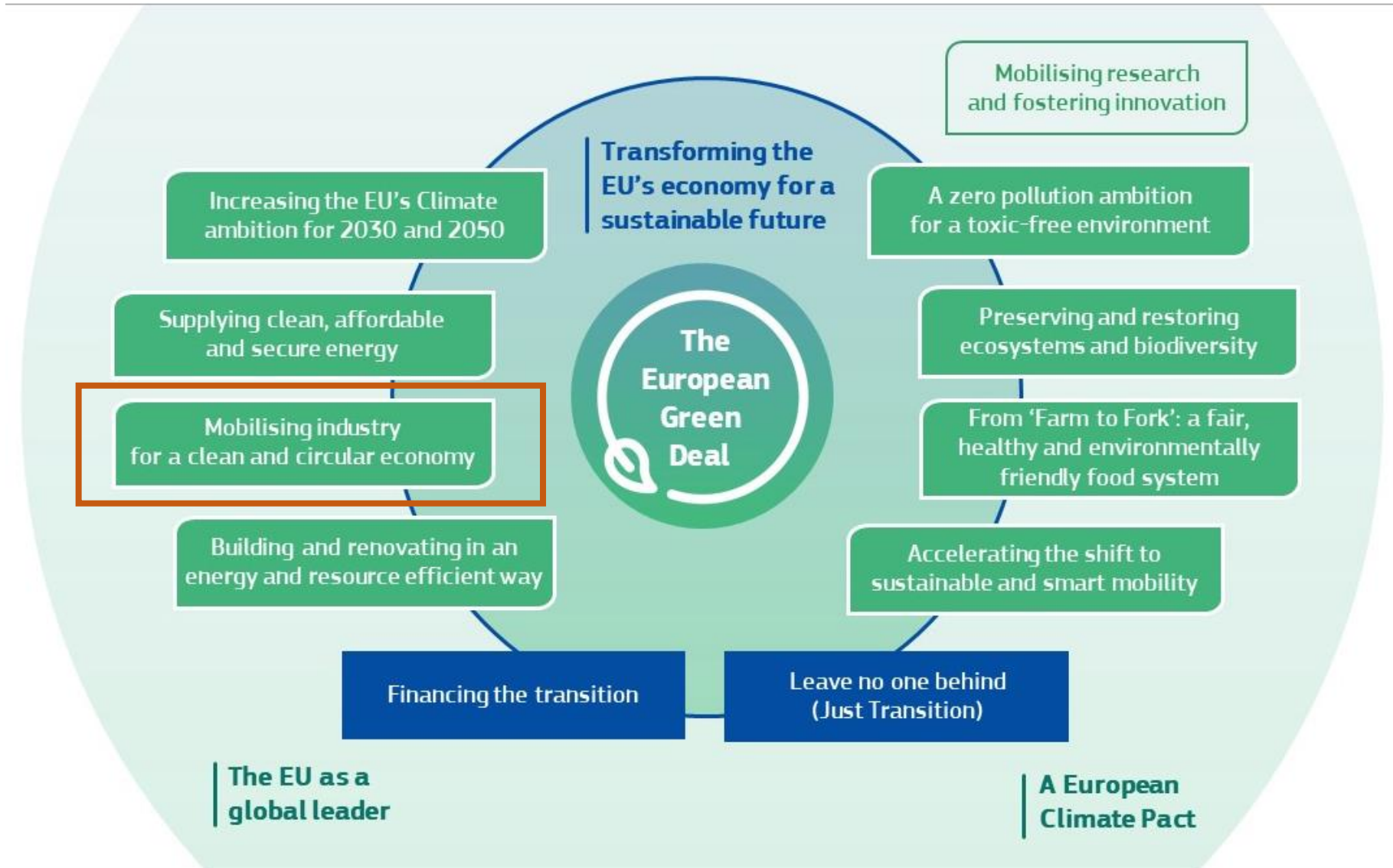
Bron: BTW-aangiften, FOD Economie



Drivers towards sustainability



EU Green Deal





Action plan circular economy



Electronics & ICT

Batteries & Vehicles

Packaging

Plastics

Textiles

Construction & Buildings

Food, water & nutrients



New legislation: Ecodesign for sustainable products regulation (ESPR)

- ESPR = General framework to set the standard for sustainable products
- Product specific ecodesign requirements via delegated acts
 - ✓ Furniture as a priority product group
 - ✓ Ecodesign requirements such as repairability, re-usability, maintenance requirements, presents of chemical substances, energy and raw material efficiency, waste phase, product passport etc.
- Non-complying products to be banned from the EU market
- Aim: come to a level playing field for all products put on the EU market (requirements also apply to imported goods!)



Ecodesign for sustainable products regulation (ESPR)

- Our view? ESPR provides opportunity, but:
 - ✓ Need for accompanying measures and flexibility for SMEs
 - ✓ Aim towards one system, not 27 different ones: go for harmonised legislation and standards
 - ✓ Incite innovation but maintain material neutrality, technology or business models
 - ✓ Companies need to have freedom to decide on how they embark on transition
 - ✓ Shared responsibility: not only the producer
 - ✓ Need for clear definitions

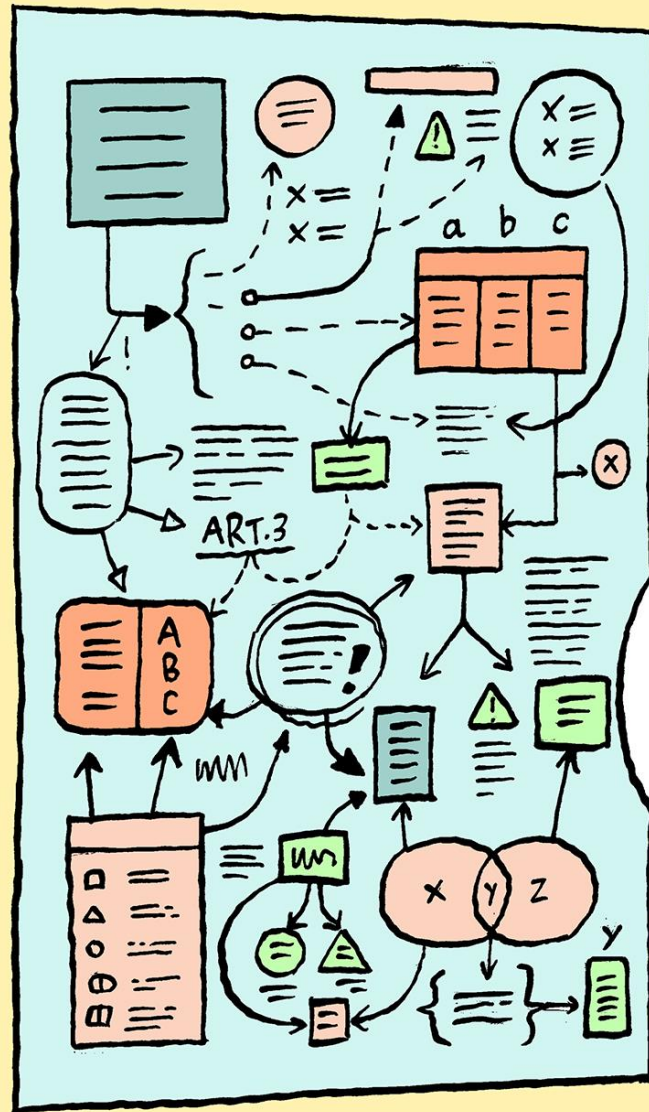


ESPR – Points of attention

- When developing delegated acts, consider:
 - ✓ The high degree of diversity within the sector with many different types of furniture and materials
 - ✓ Some requirements can apply to various types of furniture (e.g. design for disassembly), while others are material specific (e.g. use of sustainable raw materials, recycled content, etc,)
 - ✓ Measures applying to one aspect should not negatively impact other areas (e.g. limiting the number of materials used may impact quality and durability-



Industry to be consulted throughout the development process



Our waste streams?

No! Legislation in the regions



LECTRR



Extended producer responsibility - EPR

OECD defines Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as follows:

An environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle.



Extended producer responsibility - EPR

EPR for furniture

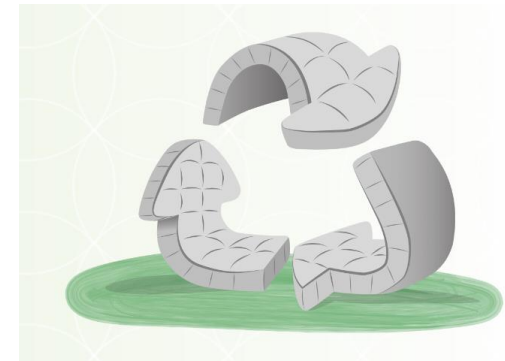
- Europe refers more and more often to the introduction of an EPR scheme
- Also regional authorities in Belgium get more and more involved
- Position of Fedustria:
 - ✓ Evaluate the “problem”
 - ✓ Look for alternatives: furniture already offer opportunities for re-use and recycling

- EPR for mattresses in Belgium (Flanders, Wallonia & Brussels)
 - ✓ In force since 01/01/2021
 - ✓ Preparatory work since 2012
- Valumat asbl = management body for the EPR for mattresses
 - ✓ Established in June 2017
 - ✓ Principle: free market
- Objectives in terms of collection and recycling of mattresses placed on the Belgian market
 - ✓ Collection targets: 30% (2021) → 50% (2023) → 65% (2025) → 80% (2030)
 - ✓ Recycling targets: 10% (2021) → 35% (2023) → 50% (2025) → 75% (2030)



Valumat – environmental contribution

- Introduction of an environmental contribution per mattress placed on the Belgian market
- The producer/importer pays Valumat and passes the cost on downstream, finally the consumer pays.
- What is this environmental contribution used for:
 - ✓ Recycling centres
 - fee for the use of the recycling centres
 - Compensation for transport and disposal of mattresses
 - ✓ Compensation for voluntary collection by professional actors (hotels, ...)
 - ✓ Operational costs Valumat
 - ✓ Research into 'design for circularity'
 - ✓ Communication





Design for Circularity action plan



1. Design for circularity working group
 - ✓ Involvement of the entire value chain
2. Mattress label (materials passport)
 - ✓ Information about materials used in mattresses
 - ✓ Important for end-users, recycling hubs, processors/recyclers,...
 - ✓ Experiments with QR-codes, RFID-tags,...
 - ✓ Harmonization necessary at sector level and preferably also at European level
 - ✓ Involvement of EBIA
 - ✓ Objective description of materials used, no judgement!
3. Ecodesign guidelines
 - ✓ Update ecodesign guidelines Innomat (2014-2017)
 - ✓ Attention to sustainable material selection, design-for-disassembly techniques and a new chapter on circular business models
 - ✓ Update was published in July 2023



Design for Circularity action plan

4. Circular business models
 - ✓ Inventory of possible circular business models
 - ✓ Feasibility test in cooperation with mattress manufacturers
 - ✓ Focus on B2B
5. Processing techniques
 - ✓ Follow-up of the international evolution of processing techniques for EoC/EoL mattresses via desk research, field research and technology watch



Design for Circularity action plan

6. Reuse

- ✓ Annual survey on collection of EoL mattresses to find out what % of mattresses is reusable in cooperation with retailers and recycling hubs
- ✓ Explore possibilities of reuse of certain (valuable) components with a long lifespan (2024)

7. Charter

- ✓ Tool for the companies to explicitly communicate their commitment to the development of circular mattresses

8. Implementation Design for circularity

- ✓ Target share of mattresses that meet ecodesign guidelines



Wood (furniture): from EUTR to EUDR

- From the “European Union Timber Regulation” to the “European Union Deforestation Regulation”
- Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 concerning the making available on the EU market and the export from the EU of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation (“Deforestation Regulation”)
- Published in OJ on 9th June 2023



Wood (furniture): from EUTR to EUDR

Some important new elements

- Scope extended from wood (products) to meat, cacao, coffee, palm oil, soy, ...
- Focus on both legality and sustainability
- Stronger focus also on EU production and related exports
- Geolocation requirement
- Risk-based “Benchmarking” per country
- But still a lot of uncertainties at the moment on what the EU really wants ...

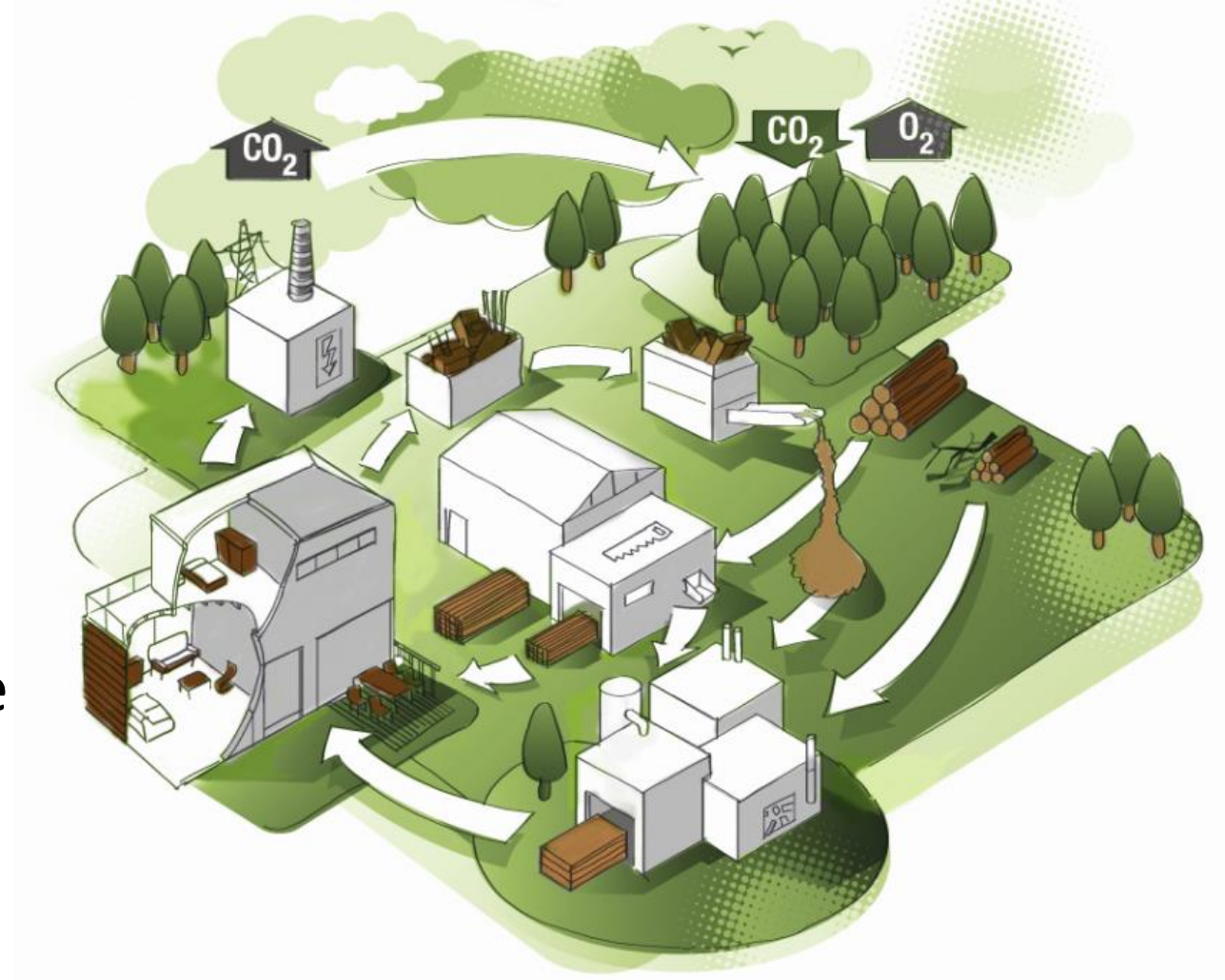


Role for certification or third party control schemes in the risk assessment but due diligence requirement remains key



Wood

- Sustainably produced wood as example for sustainable products
- Wood sector: showcase of circularity
- EU Renovation Wave & New European Bauhaus see a role for wood in construction





Wood: Role of certification

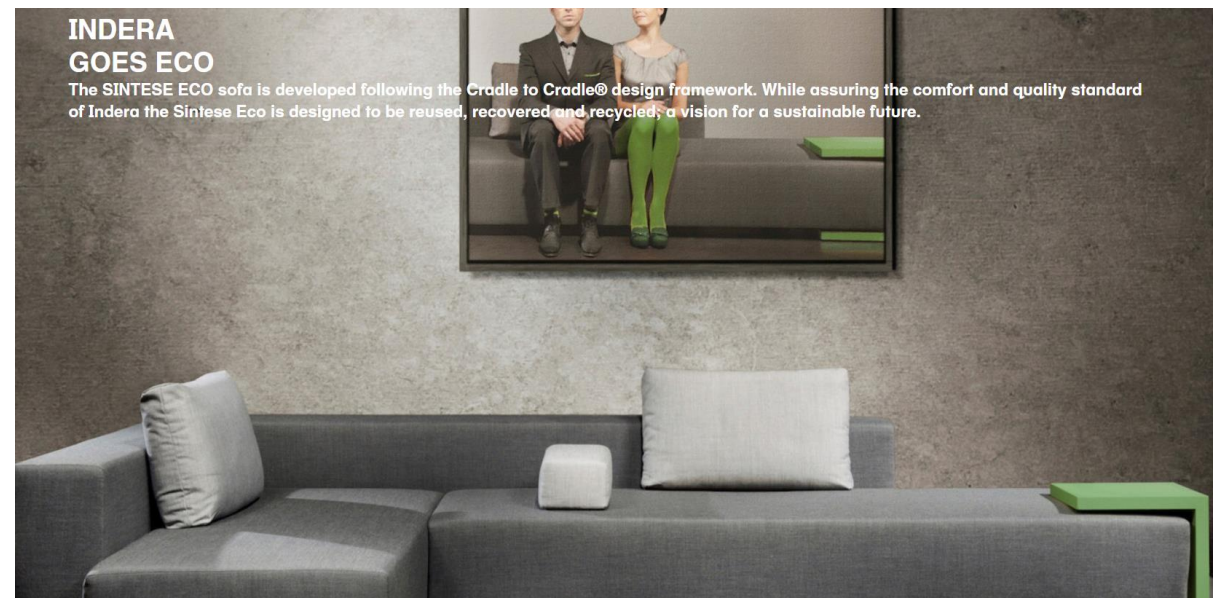
- Third party certification to prove sustainable origin
- Fedustria supports both PEFC and FSC
 - ✓ Member of the Board of PEFC Belgium
 - ✓ Member of the Board of FSC Belgium
- Role of certification to be recognised in the context of EUTR/EUDR: EU authorities refuse ...
- ... but important for risk mitigation in context of due diligence





CIRCULARITY in FURNITURE

■ Development of circular products



Nr. 01_Create

Kies je modulaire SOFAR

Bij SOFAR ontwerp je jouw modulaire sofa samen met ons. Van de gewenste opstelling tot de keuze van stoffen die jouw levensstijl of bedrijfsmissie representeren.



Nr. 02_Sustain

Onderhoud je SOFAR

Welke SOFAR je ook kiest, al onze hoezen zijn makkelijk afneembaar en wasbaar. Bovendien krijg je via een QR-code die esthetisch verwerkt zit in elk model toegang tot je eigen digitaal gebruikersplatform met onderhoudstips en vlekkenmiddelen.



Nr. 03_Adapt

Pas je SOFAR aan

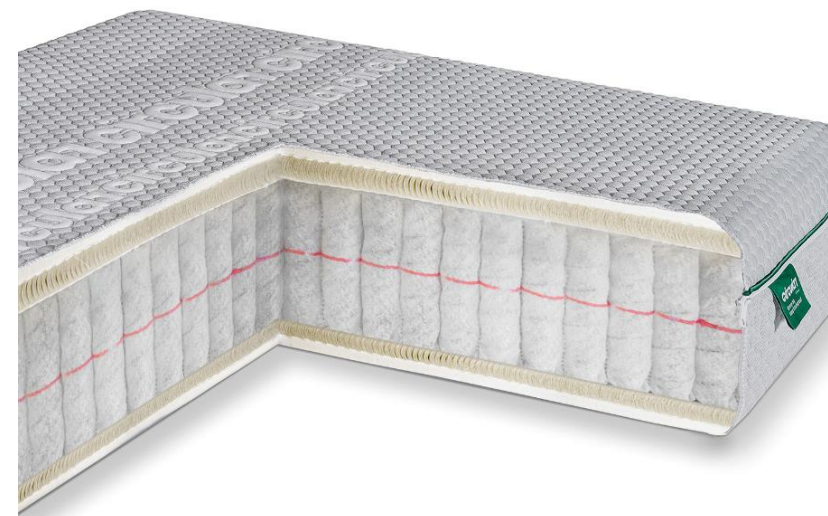
Zowel je levensstijl als interieurwensen veranderen door de jaren heen. SOFAR is eindeloos aanpasbaar en groeit met je mee. Zo kan je jouw sofa op elk moment een nieuwe look-and-feel geven door te spelen met nieuwe hoezen of te kiezen voor een andere opstelling.



Nr. 04_Give back

Geef terug aan SOFAR

SOFAR is zo ontworpen dat alle onderdelen van de sofa op het einde van zijn levensduur hergebruikt kunnen worden in een nieuw design. Komt er dus toch een moment dat je uitgekeken bent op je SOFAR? Dan halen we hem op, zodat we opnieuw aan de slag kunnen met die materialen.





CIRCULAR BUSINESS MODELS

- Development of new business models with focus on circularity

Dream interiors for a monthly fee

Change, return or buy whenever you want.
Never pay more than the retail price.

SHOP OUR PRODUCTS

FOR PROFESSIONALS





Sustainability in the furniture industry

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