



## EFBWW Standing Committee Wood/Furniture/Forestry

**Videoconference 22 September 2020, 9:00 to 12:00**

### **Item 5 : COVID-19 Disease and its impact in our countries/sectors**

**Short description on the national situation and in the wood/furniture/forestry sector. The reports will be compiled and send back to the participants. They shall give a structured overview on the situation and serve as basis for the discussion in the SC Wood. We may use them for the EFBWW webpage too. Therefore, we ask you to write not more than 10 lines for each question.**

Please complete this survey and return it to [info@efbww.eu](mailto:info@efbww.eu) before 10 September.

**Country:** Finland  
**Union:** The Finnish Industrial Union  
**Sectors concerned:** Wood/Furniture/Forestry  
**Survey completed by:** Mika Kärkkäinen

### **1. What is the current situation on COVID19 in your country (maximum lines)**

On 08.09.2020 in Finland 8337 people had got sick of the Corona virus. And 7350 of those people had recovered from the virus. On the mentioned day 987 people were sick from the virus. Already 336 people had died from the corona virus. There were 16 people in hospital care. There were quite few infections in the summer. The number of infections has increased since the beginning of August. There had been reported 356 infections during the last 2 weeks. There are more infections in the capital area compared to other cities or rural areas. Of total 8337 people, who were sick from the virus, 61 percent lived in the Helsinki metropolitan area. In the

meantime, 22 percent of the Finnish population lives in the Helsinki metropolitan area. Half of those people affected from the virus are men and half are women. The highest disease density is in the 20-60 age group.

## **2. What are the consequences for the wood and furniture sectors?**

The corona restrictive measures have had bad influences in the mechanical forest industry and the manufacture of furniture.

The production of wood products (Sector 16) will decrease significantly this year due to the corona epidemic. Interruptions in construction, car manufacturing and furniture production in the spring and summer of 2020 will reduce demand for sawn timber and plywood. Renovation construction is going a little better, which slightly corrects the situation in timber sales.

Due to the corona epidemic, the production of furniture manufacturing (Sector 31) will clearly decrease this year. Construction companies and the public sector place fewer new orders. On the other hand, more renovations of apartments have been started, which will increase the sales of furniture and building materials to some extent.

## **3. Which measures will be taken to support the sector?**

There are not any measures, which would be allocated especially to Wood/Furniture/Forestry-sector. The state however developed a 5 billion euros support package for all companies, consisting of numerous components.

There are deferred social security contributions, direct business support, loans and grants for business development and many other measures included in the package.

## **4. Are there any negotiations or specific joint action of the social partners in our sectors?**

In the spring of 2020, the employers' unions, the trade unions and the state agreed on corona measures. Their purpose was to avoid unnecessary terminations of jobs. The exception laws are in force until the end of 2020.

By the mentioned agreement it was made easier for the employer to lay off temporarily an employee. The lay off negotiation process was speeded up. The corona was a reason severe enough for temporarily lay off.

Correspondingly, the employee's access to earnings-related unemployment benefit was facilitated and accelerated. The deductible days were left out. The corona was a reason severe enough for getting unemployment benefit.

## **5. Other aspects of importance you like to report on?**

GDP dropped during the second quarter 2020 in Finland around 7 percent compared to the previous year.

The unemployment rate has been increased during the summer by 2 percent unit from previous year up to 8 percent. In addition to this, there is dozens of thousand people temporarily laid off. The employment rate has been decreased during the summer by 2 percent unit from previous year down to 73 percent.

The state began economic stimulation with the construction of railways and roads and with paving of roads.

In a difficult situation there are for example the tourism industry and the event industry.