



THE BRITISH FURNITURE CONFEDERATION

The single voice of the furniture & bed industry

Political Notebook – July 2009

A monthly activity report from the British Furniture Confederation

1. “Government’s new Advanced Manufacturing Strategy is not enough” – Martin Jourdan, Chairman of the BFC responds

On the 28th July Lord Mandelson, Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills launched the Government’s new Advanced Manufacturing Strategy. This strategy, details of which are available [here](#), announced that the Government had identified £150 million for targeted investment into advanced manufacturing industries and would work with bodies such as the Ministerial Advisory Group, the Technology Strategy Board, the Regional Development Agencies and the CBI to develop Britain’s long term manufacturing success. The BFC welcomes the increased attention for manufacturing sectors but is critical of the lack of attention given to traditional manufacturing industries.

Responding to the announcement, BFC Chairman Martin Jourdan said:

“Whilst I welcome Lord Mandelson’s announcement, I can’t help wondering why the Government is putting all its eggs in one basket. After all, it’s not just advanced manufacturing which needs support. The Government’s new Advanced Manufacturing Strategy is not enough: Britain needs a Traditional Manufacturing Strategy. British furniture manufacturers produce the best furniture in the world, and we need Government to spread that message and provide the opportunities to develop skills and international competitiveness.

“It is an undeniable fact that British manufacturing industries have been hit hard by this current recession, but British manufacturing offers one of the most powerful opportunities for the UK to recover and use its technical and creative skills to not only survive, but prosper.

“The BFC has highlighted numerous opportunities for the Government to provide that assistance, such as a Consumption Tax or organising regional development agencies so they recognise the furniture sector. I hope that now they have produced this Advanced Manufacturing Strategy, they will use it as a springboard to provide the appropriate support to traditional manufacturers, from cabinet makers to clothes designers.”

2. Early Day Motion update

We are still asking members to write to their local MPs to ask them to sign EDMs 1530, 952, and 500. Even though MPs are on holiday they can still sign EDMs and these signatures will appear once the House of Commons sits again in October. After the Queen's Speech and the new session of Parliament starts then all the existing EDMs will be removed. The BFC will then work with MPs to table new EDMs.

ENDS

Editors' Notes

The British Furniture Confederation (BFC) acts a single voice for UK furniture and bed manufacturers. Led by an executive, comprising representatives of BCFA, BFM, FIRA and NBF, and supported by associate members (AMUSF, GMB, Proskills and WCFM), its mission is to ensure that the UK furniture industry has a strong and sustainable dialogue with Government. Its roles include:

- Securing the long term future and prosperity of the British furniture industry
- Raising the profile of the industry at a political level
- Formulating strategies for dealing with key industry issues
- Engaging in dialogue and negotiating with Government on these issues
- Working with the All Party Parliamentary Furniture Group to promote cross party discussion and to meet with senior influencers within Government agencies
- Ensuring that the industry gains the recognition and attention that its size deserves

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Tel: 01438 777700
Fax: 01438 777800
email: secretariat@britishfurnitureconfederation.org.uk

Supplementary Information Full text of the BFC EDMs

EDM 1530

FURNITURE AND FIRE SAFETY GUIDE

19.05.2009

Moon, Madeleine

47 signatures

Anderson, David

Anderson, Janet

Bottomley, Peter

Browne, Jeremy	Campbell, Gregory	Campbell, Ronnie
<i>Caton, Martin</i>	Clapham, Michael	Clarke, Tom
Corbyn, Jeremy	Crausby, David	Cryer, Ann
Cummings, John	Dean, Janet	Dismore, Andrew
Dobbin, Jim	Drew, David	<i>Durkan, Mark</i>
Francis, Hywel	<i>George, Andrew</i>	Hancock, Mike
Harvey, Nick	Hoyle, Lindsay	Hughes, Simon
Iddon, Brian	Illsley, Eric	Jackson, Glenda
Jenkins, Brian	Jones, Lynne	Leech, John
Lepper, David	Llwyd, Elfyn	McCafferty, Chris
McDonnell, Alasdair	McDonnell, John	McGrady, Eddie
Moffatt, Laura	Prentice, Gordon	Riordan, Linda
<i>Russell, Bob</i>	Simpson, Alan	<i>Spink, Bob</i>
Vis, Rudi	Wareing, Robert N	Williams, Betty
Williams, Stephen		

That this House welcomes the launch of the British Furniture Confederation's Guide to the Fire Safety of Furniture and Furnishings in the Home; recognises that the UK flammability regulations have been in existence for over 20 years and in 2000 it was estimated that they had saved up to 1,860 lives since their introduction; notes the importance of the new guide in clarifying and explaining the existing regulations to account for recent precedents and changes; and further notes the high quality and standard of British furniture.

EDM 952

ASK IF IT IS GREAT BRITISH FURNITURE CAMPAIGN

03.03.2009

Moon, Madeleine

45 signatures

Borrow, David S	<i>Browne, Jeremy</i>	Burgon, Colin
Campbell, Gregory	Campbell, Ronnie	Caton, Martin
Corbyn, Jeremy	Cryer, Ann	Dean, Janet

Dismore, Andrew	Dobbin, Jim	Dodds, Nigel
Drew, David	Etherington, Bill	Foster, Michael Jabez
Francis, Hywel	<i>Goodman, Paul</i>	Hancock, Mike
Hemming, John	Howells, Kim	Iddon, Brian
Jenkins, Brian	Jones, Lynne	Kidney, David
Leech, John	McCafferty, Chris	Moffatt, Laura
Osborne, Sandra	Pope, Greg	<i>Prentice, Gordon</i>
Riordan, Linda	Robinson, Iris	Rowen, Paul
Simpson, Alan	<i>Spink, Bob</i>	<i>Taylor, David</i>
Vis, Rudi	Williams, Betty	Williams, Mark
Williams, Stephen	Willis, Phil	Wilshire, David
Wilson, Sammy	Winterton, Nicholas	

That this House acknowledges the importance of the furniture manufacturing industry to the UK economy, with an annual output of almost £10 billion and direct employment of around 124,000 people within 7,500 enterprises; notes the Ask If It Is Great British Furniture campaign, as featured on the BBC 2 programme, Working Lunch and in the national press; emphasises the qualities of British furniture which comes from craft skills which have been conceived, developed and perfected over many years, decades and centuries of tradition, producing inspirational designs, from the most traditional manufacturing methods, with the most stringent environmental and health and safety standards, the shortest delivery times and the best after-sales service; and further notes that the campaign is an important initiative that should be supported and applauded.

EDM 500

CREDIT INSURANCE AND THE FURNITURE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

19.01.2009

Moon, Madeleine

47 signatures

Anderson, David	Austin, John	Battle, John
Bottomley, Peter	Burden, Richard	Caton, Martin
Corbyn, Jeremy	Crausby, David	Cryer, Ann
Dean, Janet	Devine, Jim	<i>Dismore, Andrew</i>

<i>Dobbin, Jim</i>	Dobson, Frank	<i>Doran, Frank</i>
Drew, David	Durkan, Mark	Etherington, Bill
Evans, Nigel	Francis, Hywel	Hancock, Mike
<i>Henderson, Doug</i>	<i>Hopkins, Kelvin</i>	Howells, Kim
Hoyle, Lindsay	Illsley, Eric	Jenkins, Brian
Jones, Lynne	McCafferty, Chris	McCartney, Ian
McDonnell, Alasdair	McDonnell, John	McGuire, Anne
Meale, Alan	Osborne, Sandra	Prentice, Gordon
Robinson, Iris	Roy, Lindsay	Simpson, Alan
Simpson, David	Singh, Marsha	Taylor, Dari
Taylor, David	Wareing, Robert N	Williams, Betty
Winterton, Nicholas		

That this House acknowledges the importance of the furniture manufacturing industry to the UK economy, with an annual output of almost £10 billion and direct employment of around 124,000 people within 7,500 enterprises; further notes the problem of obtaining credit insurance in light of the economic downturn particularly in the furniture manufacturing industry; and recognises that credit insurance companies are promoting panic by removing insurance cover from furniture manufacturers and their suppliers, often without basing such action upon the risk involved or the financial viability of the individuals or firms involved.