

Welcome address for the Mebel 2017 International Exhibition

On behalf of the Association of Furniture and Woodworking Enterprises of Russia, I would like to welcome participants, visitors and organizers of the 29th edition of the Mebel International Exhibition for Furniture, Fittings and Upholstery.

The presence of Russian enterprises at the furniture exhibition hosted by Expocentre, the country's biggest and most prestigious furniture forum, grows year upon year. This trend demonstrates the general level of the Russian furniture industry's development: this year, the share of locally made furniture on the Russian market topped 60%. There is every prerequisite for its further growth. The Russian government has taken a crucial step to support domestic manufacturers: a resolution has been signed to limit public and municipal procurement of imported furniture. We deem the fact that the initiative put forth by the Association of Furniture and Woodworking Enterprises of Russia to be a major accomplishment of the Association this year.

I should also mention a sizable growth of exports of Russian furniture in 2017. We have gone beyond the CIS borders and are exporting our products to Europe, the Asia Pacific region, and the Middle East. The Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade Ministry deserves credit for this. The ministry's support for Russian manufacturers made possible their participation in the trade shows held in Germany, India, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates.

The production development and a decreasing share of imported component parts will promote growth of the affiliated industries such textile, chemical, and metalworking. The Association, which represents interests of the business community, is working towards this goal.

The development prospects and export of Russian furniture will be the topic of a roundtable held within Mebel 2017. The industry has a great deal of problems. We will speak about them at this event.

Industry majors of Russia and other countries will present their best furniture at Expocentre Fairgrounds for the 29th time. The interest in the Moscow international furniture exhibition has been invariably high through all these years. There will be over 700 exhibitors this year. This is the best proof that Mebel 2017 is the main event of Russia's furniture industry.

I wish successful and fruitful work to all exhibitors!

Aleksandr Shestakov
President
Association of Furniture and
Woodworking Enterprises of Russia
Member of the Timber Industry Development
Council under the Russian Government

