

Leading Companies in the wood- and furniture industry in Bulgaria

Wood Industry

1. KRONOSPAN Bulgaria Ltd.
2. LESOPLAST PLC
3. DARVOOBRABOTVANE-VT JSC
4. FURNIR JSC–Sofia
5. SOKOLA JOINT STOCK COMPANY - Peshtera
6. IKO – Razlog

Furniture Industry

1. TIMEX INTERNATIONAL LTD
2. NIKROM MEBEL JSK
3. LUDOGORIE-91 JSC
4. MEBEL JSC
5. MEBEL GEN JSC
6. STANKOV SP
7. OLIMPIA LTD
8. IZKUSTVO TRIAVNA JSC
9. RIKO STYLE
10. VIZATEL
11. AUGUSTA MEBEL
12. BOGDAN FURNITURE
13. DOFI Ltd
14. ELMA 13
15. FANTASTICO MEBEL Ltd
16. FAVO Ltd
17. GOSPODINOV & SINOVE
18. INTERIOR 46” Ltd
19. INTEXT Ltd
20. KARABULEV Ltd
21. OPTIMA MEBEL
22. PARALLEL Ltd
23. PLATAN-ARI COM Ltd
24. RETROUJUT – AKSAGA
25. RIVA 21 Ltd
26. SNEGT Ltd
27. STANKOV FURNITURE Ltd
28. TOTAL-M Ltd
29. NICOLETTI

Wood Industry / Company - Profiles

1. KRONOSPAN Bulgaria Ltd. – Kronospan part Bulgaria is part of the Austrian Group Kronospan which is one of the leading producers of wood materials in Europe. The Bulgarian Agency was settled in the 1997 in Bourgas that is the second largest sea port and business center of Bulgaria, and this strategic position was chosen in order to allow easy access to Eastern Europe, near and medium east markets. Probably it is the most modern enterprise producing wood materials in the country and its principal products are laminated flooring, HDF, MDF boards, wall panels and doors. According with the National Insurance Institute Bulletin published in February 2005, Kronospan is ranked among the top 50 most correct employers in Bulgaria, with personnel from 100 to 250 people.

2. LESOPLAST PLC – Lesoplast is located in Troian and it is the largest company in the country in term of productive capacity. It was privatized by Welde GmbH Austria in 1997. Its main productions are plywood with a yearly capacity of 38,500 sqm. yearly and fiberboard with an annual capacity of nearly 100,000 cum. In the factory work nearly 850 people and average turnover were of 20 million of EUR, of which nearly half is through exports. Lesoplast is the main exporter of plywood within its sub-sector.

3. DARVOBRABOTVANE-VT JSC – The company is located in Veliko Tarnovo, founded in 1961 has a long term traditions in manufacturing of various wooden products for building, finger-joined solid wood panels, and parquet, beech sawn timber, beech and poplar rotary veneer and plywood. At the the employees are more than 350 and more than half of the output is export directed to the Western Europe, North America, Balkan Peninsula and Far East.

4. FURNIR JSC–Sofia – is established in 1932 and it is one of the biggest factories in Bulgaria for production of rotary and sliced veneer, plywood details, chair backs, straight and concave seats, bed slats, etc., made of beech, pine, oak, cherry, walnut and other wooden types. The total area of the enterprise is 9000 sq. m., the employees are 180.

5. SOKOLA JOINT STOCK COMPANY - Peshtera – The firm is active since 1947 and is a manufacturer and trader of high quality coniferous wood boards, laminated panels and multi –ply beams. Its facilities spread over a surface of 150000 sqm and its productive capacity is of 150,000 cum of processed timber per year. The total employed in the factory is 200. The company exports more than 80% of its total production.

6. IKO - Razlog – The company was created in 1996 and is involved in the manufacture of boards, beams from pine and beech wood. IKO has a 3,000 sqm of production area situated on a plot of 12,000 sqm. The used technology is quite modern thanks of a joint projects named SAPARD, jointly carried on with EU. Its production is mainly for exportation.

Furniture Industry / Company – Profiles

1. TIMEX INTERNATIONAL LTD – Petrich – The company, founded in 1991, produces wooden chairs and tables for the commercial seating industry, veneered table tops with solid edge and custom manufacturing based on specification or sample. Its principal exports markets are USA, Canada and Europe. It has a productive capacity of 10.000 chairs per month and has 250 employees.

2. NIKROM MEBEL JSK – This firm, established in 1997, produces office, kitchen and hotel furniture, then tubular furniture and plywood components for chairs. Its monthly production is about 1.000.000 EUR but could be increased up to 1.500.000 EUR. It employs 40 people and it exports mainly to Europe countries. Moreover it is ISO 9002 certificated and comply with Italian standards too. It is located in Elin Pelin and Lovech.

3. LUDOGORIE-91 JSC – The firm was established in 1963 and produces exclusively chairs of solid beech wood and has a capacity of 24.000 up to 28.000 chairs per month. It is in process of implementation of a project which will rise the capacity to 40,000 chairs per month by 2007. The company employs 280 people and its main exports markets are Europe and America secured by IKEA Sweden. It is certificated for quality, environment and working conditions, corresponding to IKEA's requirements. It is located in Ludogorie.

4. MEBEL JSC - Stara Zagora – It was founded in 1966 and produces dining rooms, kitchen, bedrooms, children's and office furniture and then doors. It can produce 60 articles per month for a total volume of 120 cum of solid wood and has 66 employees. It is an export oriented company especially to Sweden, Israel, England, Ireland, Italy and the USA (in this later country Mebel exports mainly veneer bedroom suits). It is in process for the ISO 9001:2000 certification.

5. MEBEL GEN JSC – The company is based in the town of Shoumen and it has been in the business for over 50 years. It is a baby and juvenile furniture producer and has a capacity of 2.000 units per month and employs 120 persons on a productive area of 28.000 sqm. It exports mainly to USA (New York and California) and Great Britain, and over 60% of the company turnover is sold outside Bulgaria and since 1997 90% of the whole production has been exported to the USA. It is in process for obtaining the ISO 9001:2002 certification.

6. STANKOV SP – Sofia – The firm produces upholstered and solid furniture with a capacity of 3.000 items yearly. It employs 100 people. Its main markets for exports are Switzerland, Israel, Serbia and Montenegro.

7. OLIMPIA LTD – Oreshaka, Troyan region – It was founded in 1993 and produces wood home furniture as table for dining and living room Different kind of buffet and bedrooms seats; it produces veneered plywood too. It has almost 3.000 sqm of producing area and employs 71 workers. It is ISO 9001 certificated and exports to Cyprus and Italy.

8. IZKUSTVO TRIAVNA JSC – The company produces home furniture such as living and dining rooms and bedrooms, made of solid wood. Its capacity is of 800 items per month and its working force is of 60 people. It exports to Europe and USA.

9. RIKO STYLE - Troyan – It is a company established in 1992, and which is specialized in chairs production mostly made of wood such as beech and pine. Riko has a working area of 6.000 sqm and employs 120 people. The company has is export oriented and exports 75% of the production mainly to USA, UK, ISRAEL, Cyprus and Greece, while the rest of products is sold in the domestic market.

10. VIZATEL – Vizatel is a family owned company operating in the field of interior design and production of solid wood furniture since 1996. Its facilities are based in Sofia and the production division is on an area of 3.000 sqm, and it is supported with high technology machine parks. The company which is ISO 9001:2000 certified, is probably one of the most known Bulgarian furniture manufacturer, oriented toward modern lifestyle furniture and in 2005 will take part for the third time at the IMM Cologne fair. The company directly sells its products through its own showrooms.

11. AUGUSTA MEBEL – It is a joint stock company with entirely private capital and its principal shareholders is “The Industrial Holding Bulgaria AD”. The company was founded on the 5th May 1919 as a wood building company. It is located in Shumen. In 1921 started with the production of veneers and by the 1949, when become state owned, was occupied by the production of doors, window panes, furniture and other wood articles. Soon become also an exporter mainly to the Soviet Union and the near East. Today the company still remain in the same production segments and has recently entered new markets such as UK, Germany, USA where 75% of its production is exported. The company is ISO 9001 certified.

12. BOGDAN FURNITURE - Bogdan Furniture is a growing multi-national furniture manufacturing and distribution corporation. Set up initially as an Anglo-Bulgarian joint venture in 1997, it now has associates and management from Bulgaria, UK, Ireland, Italy and Turkey. Today Bogdan has 250 workers and operate on 5 separate sites throughout Bulgaria. Nowadays the production id divided into 4 key segment: upholstery furniture; for corpus furniture of massive, for the production of wooden package and for the production of semi-finished products and metal details. The sales of upholstered in particularly, are distributed internal and internationally as follow: 40% is exported to Italy, Greece and Cyprus while 60% is designated for the home market. The company has a net of own distributors called “Bogdan Mebel” which are 55 all around the country. In addition Bogdan Furniture, through its associates and shareholders, privately owns forest areas throughout Bulgaria, and plans to invest more in these as it grows, in order to become a fully independent and cost effective organization. It has facilities in Sofia and Klisura.

13. DOFI Ltd – It was established on 1993 in Kardjali. It manufactures of membrane pressed detail using MDF technologies and of veneer for Kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms and others. It has 32 employees and facilities located on 10,000 sqm.

14. ELMA 13 – Stoeva, Hadjiiska – The company was founded in 1991 and is based in Troyan. It produces chairs and tables and counts 44 employees.

15. FANTASTICO MEBEL Ltd – The company was established in 1993 as a small-size enterprise but gradually grew until becoming today one of the first in Bulgaria. It has now 110 employees and produces furniture for offices, kitchens, homes, hotels and shops. It is located in Russe.

16. FAVO Ltd – It was founded in 1990 and nowadays has 170 employees. It is based in Svishtov and produces tables and other wooden product.

17. GOSPODINOV & SINOVE (Sons) – It is based in the city of Dobrich. Its production is separated into two plant: one for tubular furniture and the other for frame furniture. 50 persons are employed in the productive facilities. The company is ISO 9001:2000 certified and possesses two own showroom: one in Sofia and the other in Varna.

18. INTERIOR 46” Ltd – It is settled in Rousse on a total area of 20,000 sqm. It employs 60 people. Interior produces home furniture such as bedroom sets and kitchen and operates mainly in the Bulgarian market. It is seeking partners for joint-venture abroad.

19. INTEXT Ltd - is a manufacturer of interior doors but also an importer and distributor of armoured garage and fireproof doors and electric materials from GEWISS and BM-Italy. It is ISO 9001-2000 certified since 2003. It is located in Pazardjik.

20. KARABULEV Ltd – It was founded in Pleven in 1995. Today it has 100 employees and a turnover around 800,000 EUR annually. Its main products are doors, windows and furniture for bedrooms, living-rooms and childrooms.

21. OPTIMA MEBEL - It was founded in 1994 in Sofia and is a private company that produce home and office furniture.

22. PARALLEL Ltd – The company was established in 1995 in the town of Sevlievo. Its main production is upholstery furniture but in effect it has three productive units: one of mattresses “NANI”, one of polyurethane foam “KOVAFOAM” and one of office and home furnishings. It has a showroom covering 2,000 sqm of area opened in 1999.

23. PLATAN-ARI COM Ltd – It was founded in 1993 and is a home furniture producer such as: living room, upholstered, dining room, bedroom and kitchen furniture. At present it consists of eleven showrooms and storehouse in Sofia and one in Plovdiv. It works with many companies from Germany, Italy, Poland, Turkey, Spain and Malaysia.

24. RETROUJUT – AKSAGA – The company was established in 1990 in Yambol. It is specialized in upholstery furniture production. It has a 5,000 sqm productive area on which 180 employees work. It sell both on the internal as on abroad markets especially Germany and Austria, It holds the ISO 9001:2000 certification.

25. RIVA 21 Ltd – Riva is a producer of chairs, barstools and tables for commercial and home usage. It was founded in 1999 and based in Petrich. It employs nearly 80 persons.

26. SNEGT Ltd – It is a furniture manufacturer founded in 1996. It produce wooden furniture and do not have a single specialization but produce custom made furniture of any type. Its main products are pine furniture for house, garden, restaurants and hotels. It is located in Bansko.

27. STANKOV FURNITURE Ltd – Stankov was founded in the 1991 and its main activity is production of upholstery furniture. At the present the company is located in Sofia where in its facility are working 108 employees. It has two showrooms in Sofia too.

28. TOTAL-M Ltd – Total is a Bulgarian furniture company founded in 1990. It is based in Shoumen and employs nearly 45 persons. The company produces a wide range of things, such as: chairs, tables, office furniture, beds, wardrobes and children rooms. The company is specialized in furnishing of public areas and buildings.

29. Nicoletti will further invest in Bulgaria.

The Italian furniture producer Nicoletti is one of the biggest investors in Bulgaria. Nicoletti is present in Bulgaria since 2003 when the Bulgarian Agency of Nicoletti was established in Teteven being then the first investment of the firm outside Italy.

The Teteven factory employs 127 people and is the most productive agency of the Nicoletti outside Italy. There Nicoletti produce upholstered seats for high end market with prices around 2,000 EUR which are primarily directed toward exports.

In 2004 thanks to the 27,851 divans produced, Nicoletti Bulgaria had 5,93 million of sales of which 60% thanks to exports in Great Britain and 20% to USA and the remaining to Israel, France, Belgium and Holland.

Nicoletti has opened a new unit in Bulgaria in 2003. The new factory have 25 thousand sqm of surface on an area of 6 or 7 ha and will employ 500 persons, The factory is set in Teteven.

The branch of Teteven in 2003, was awarded as “The best employer of the year” of Bulgaria.

Source: ICE 2004.

Quelle

BULGARIA’S WOOD-PROCESSING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRY

EU PHARE PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION OF CLUSTER APPROACH AND ESTABLISHING OF A PILOT CLUSTER MODEL BG 2003/004-937.0203

ANALYSIS OF SUB-SECTORS / Wood Processing & Furniture Industry

Researcher: Elisaveta Alexandrova

December 2005

Bg/JM/FS/12/01/7