



INFORMATION ON THE AIMS AND ROLE OF THE UNION OF EMPLOYERS IN WOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

The Union of Employers in Wood Processing Industries was founded at the general meeting held in Prague on April 10th, 1991, based on the adoption of the statute of Union, of the statement of policy and on the election of the executive bodies – i.e. the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board of the Union.

The Union's good position at meetings with government or other institutions, built along its whole existence, is due to its unequivocal standpoints during such negotiations, always supporting the interests of member organizations. These definite standpoints are the reason why there are new organizations applying for membership in the Union, carrying business in wood processing industries, as well as other companies, which are only cooperating with the industry and foreign partners taking advantage of the Union's services for building of professional contacts.

If regarded from the viewpoint of their business line, member organizations include saw mill basic industries, constructional joineries, cabinetries, manufacturers of music instruments, toys, sporting goods, brushes, as well as forestry and trading companies, vocational schools and research institutions.

Some of the member companies carrying business in such various fields have only one employee, while the other employ over 500 people.

Since its establishment in 1991, the Union has always concentrated on resolution of the most up-to-date problems in the industry. In the first stage of its existence, the main task solved in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry for Administration of National Property, was the privatization of the Czech industry, aiming at the selection and implementation of such forms of privatization that would correspond with the situation at the specific companies.

Over the whole of its existence, the Union primarily and systematically monitored evolving situation of the raw material base in the wood processing industries (volume and price parameters), as it is crucial for potential prosperity of all wood processing organizations – not just the Union itself. Regarding this aspect, we can state that the Union, supported by the economic basis composed of its member organizations, negotiates with legislative and executive governmental bodies in favor of all the businesses of the Czech wood processing industries. The tasks and activities of the Union for the upcoming period are discussed and specified at the general meetings held annually in end of March, the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board are elected once in two years.

To meet one of the Union's tasks included in its Statute, which is to inform members about the Union activities and provide them with specialized information about its operation, the elected bodies of the Union search for possibilities of cooperation

with professional magazines (published both in the Czech Republic and abroad). That is the way how the Union publishes information for the needs of the professional public from the area of its activities as well as the way how to present opinions and standpoints of and how to introduce new member companies.

Based on the experience of the Union acquired since its establishment, it is possible to specify the main subjects of its operation in several points, which are constantly included in the Union's Statute and which are complemented each year with the specific program of activities relating to the current, usually short-term problems. The main tasks of the Union include:

1. Protecting common concerns and interests of the members and promoting them in relation with the governmental agencies, regional and other bodies and organizations.
2. Taking part in generation of and amending to the legal regulations connected with the business and employer's activities of the members.
3. Collecting, analyzing and processing important findings and experience from the field of the employer's activities both home and abroad, as well as their popularizing and spreading to make them available in practice. Providing members with professional, information, analytic, consulting, legal, advisory and other services and – according to the specific conditions and options – assisting also in other ways to achieve economic prosperity and successful development of the members.
4. Promoting authority and prestige of the work in the field, together with promotion of the relevant economic and social measures within the state policy. Assisting in creation of suitable conditions for the rise of qualification and retraining of employees in the field.
5. As far as the environmental protection is concerned, supporting solutions, which respect the citizens' concerns and which do not impair conditions of life of neither present nor future generations.
6. Building relations with parallel professional unions abroad and cooperating with them with the objective to promote our common interests.
7. Supporting development of the external economic relations to enhance competitiveness of the field.
8. Informing members and supporting fulfillment of the Union's tasks by publishing of periodical as well as irregular information in publications, complying with the valid legal standards.
9. Representing employers in collective bargaining with trade unions, especially in preparation and conclusion of collective agreements at higher-level importance. Based on the employers' (union members') requirements, protecting their interests in collective bargaining at lower levels of trade unions too.
10. Acting against unfair competition and caring for maintenance of serious character of business within the industry.

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