

## Press release

### *Opening of the Bauwerk Boen Group parquet factory in Đurđevac*

**May 2018 – On 24 May 2018, a new parquet factory was inaugurated in Đurđevac, Croatia. In 2017, the Bauwerk Boen Group took over a sawmill and developed it into one of the most modern parquet factories in Europe. The group is thus strategically positioned for the future and has ensured the sustainable and safe delivery and processing of its coveted oak wood.**



#### **Happy faces at official opening ceremony**

Around 100 guests attended the ceremony. The tight program included visiting the 4'218 hectare large local forest Repaš. The subsequent tour through the 130'000 square meter production area and associated buildings presented a factory with the most modern machines as well as the most committed employees.

All guests, including the Ambassador of Switzerland in Croatia, H.E. Stefan Estermann, and the Ambassador of Norway in Croatia, H.E. Astrid Versto, were highly impressed. Dominik Sauter, President of the Board Bauwerk Boen Group, together with Predrag Štromar, Vice President of Croatia, engaged in sawing a tree trunk at the official opening ceremony – a symbolic gesture regarding a successful cooperation in the future.

Guests finished the day with a dinner in the relaxed atmosphere of the Đurđevac Castle.

Klaus Brammertz, CEO Bauwerk Boen Group and President Bauwerk Brand a.i., summarizes: «The opening ceremony was a great success. I was especially delighted with the happy faces of the Croatian employees glowing with pride. The opening of the new parquet factory is an important step on the Bauwerk Boen Group's way to become Europe's most valuable parquet manufacturer.»

#### **Lots of activity in Đurđevac**

In the Croatian sawmill – with a capacity of 25'000 cubic meters of logs – 250 logs from the local forest are processed daily in a 2-shift model. This is equivalent to 100 cubic meters round timber per day. A surface finishing line with a length of 120 meters was put into operation after a two-month test phase. Every day approx. 4'500 square meters parquet are lacquered.

Likewise, product finishing has taken place in Croatia since April 2018. Finished parquet production for the 3-layer parquet range with click system started in May. In total the parquet factory produces 1.1 million square meters of parquet per year.

Over the past year, over 150 new employees have been hired and the plant now has more than 275 employees. The group thus contributes to the preservation and creation of new jobs in Croatia.

### **Forestry as one of the most important economic activities in Croatia**

The example of the Repaš forest shows the high-quality and important role of the raw material for Croatia's economy. Thanks to its valuable oak resources Repaš is the most valuable ecosystem in the region, including 1'106'500 cubic meters of wood. 27 employees manage this forest. The warm and mild climate with plenty of rain facilitates the growth of the valuable raw material. All Croatian forests are FSC certified since 25 years.

### **Sustainability and ecological requirements**

With the new parquet factory, the Bauwerk Boen Group also proves that sustainability and ecological management are in focus. Commodity-driven work steps, such as drying and cutting of lamellas are now carried out in the country of origin of the wood. This also creates a particularly meaningful added value and the transport of already dried wood has fewer harmful effects on the environment.

### **About the Bauwerk Boen Group**

According to the management, the Bauwerk Boen Group is a leading European developer, manufacturer and supplier in the premium parquet floors segment, and the second largest supplier of hardwood floors on the market. With around 9.2 million square meters of parquet sold per year under the two brands Bauwerk and Boen, the group offers a complementary range of 2-layer and 3-layer parquet flooring as well as sports flooring made of wood. The core markets of Switzerland, Norway and Germany as well as Austria, United Kingdom, France, China and the US are processed by local subsidiaries. The head administrative office of the group is located in St. Margrethen, Switzerland. Production sites are located in St. Margrethen, Kietaviškės/Lithuania and Đurđevac /Croatia. In the financial year 2017, the Bauwerk Boen Group generated net sales of CHF 285 million and employed a total of around 1,800 employees.

### **Contact**

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## Picture Overview

### OPENING OF NEW PARQUET FACTORY IN ĐURĐEVAC (CROATIA)



1) All guests, including the Ambassador of Switzerland in Croatia, H.E. Stefan Estermann, and the Ambassador of Norway in Croatia, H.E. Astrid Versto, were highly impressed by the modern parquet factory in Đurđevac.



2) 250 tree trunks are processed daily. Picture: Klaus Brammertz, CEO Bauwerk Boen Group and President Bauwerk Brand a.i. (right), and Igor Benaković, Managing Director ad interim Bauwerk Boen d.o.o.



3) The 130'000 square meter large production area in Đurđevac, Croatia (view from above).



4) Dominik Sauter, President of the Board Bauwerk Boen Group, together with Predrag Štromar, Vice President of Croatia, engaged in sawing a tree trunk at the official opening ceremony – a symbolic gesture regarding a successful cooperation in the future.



5) The Bauwerk Boen Management Team with Klaus Brammertz, CEO Bauwerk Boen Group and President Bauwerk Brand a.i. (li.), planted an oak during the opening ceremony of the Croatian factory.



## Picture Overview

### OPENING OF NEW PARQUET FACTORY IN ĐURĐEVAC (CROATIA)



6) Klaus Brammertz looking ahead: «The opening of the new parquet factory is an important step on the Bauwerk Boen Group's way to become Europe's most valuable parquet manufacturer.»



7) Over the past year, over 150 new employees have been hired and the plant now has more than 275 employees.



8) The parquet factory produces 1.1 million square metres of parquet per year.



9) Repaš is 4.218 hectares large: Forestry is one of the most important economic activities in Croatia.