



**Mr. Mite Cebov,**  
General manager of ISTRA Ltd. Kochani

Every country is proud on its natural wealth which consists of: mountains, lakes, waterfalls, canyons, rivers, springs, spas and etc. Because of that every people should be glad for having at their disposal even a little bit of all these beauties. Unlike them, people who are being born and live on this peace of land have a reason more to love and to be proud on their country for the great number of opportunities to enjoy its wonderful natural beauties.

In Macedonia there are many diverse natural beauties such as the following ones: mountains, rivers, lakes, spas, springs and etc. Indisputable fact is that mountains in Republic of Macedonia are abundant with most various kinds of woods that enables great conditions for exploitation of the wood as a material or raw-material for the process of processing.

Wood-processing on the territory of Republic of Macedonia has got an age-old tradition, which originates from primeval time and has still been lasting till present days. Macedonian woodcarving tradition, which originates since the Middle Age, has been highly esteemed in Europe and in the world, with a special respect.

Numerous handicraft works made by Macedonian wood-carvers through the centuries, which are mostly preserved at the spiritual sanctuaries all over the country, are immense achievements of the world's civilization and significant historical and religious acquisitions. Also, they are very significant compound parts of our cultural legacy whose value is inestimable.

In time, craftsmen who had worked on their own up to a certain period, started to organize themselves into bigger groups, so-called "esnafs". Later, these "esnafs" have grown up into smaller associations of craftsmen organized according to their activities and types of manufacture. Mostly, those associations gathered not more than 15-20 people.

At the threshold of the 20-th century, besides craftsmen's associations a considerable number of enterprises and factories was opened in order to increase working efficiency and quality of wood-processing. Against the end of the 50-ies of the past century in Republic of Macedonia, more serious development of the Wood-processing industry and production of furniture have started. Two decades later, at the middle of the 70-

ies of the same century huge production capacities such as the factories TRESKA and CRN BOR equipped with most up-to-date machines and operated by an expert staff have become more successful, adopting the European standards and criteria.

Wood-processing industry and production of furniture in Republic of Macedonia have reached their upsurge during the 80-ies of the past century. Then, almost all production capacities were functioning in the best possible way and, products were distributed on the markets in the former Yugoslav republics and abroad, because of their excellent and always recognizable quality.

After the breakdown of the Yugoslav federation (at the beginning of the 90-ies), Wood-processing industry and production of furniture in our country have outlived an enormous fall and constant downward trend of production. This was the hardest period for the entire industry in the country and especially for the Wood-processing industry and production of furniture. In that period many production capacities were closed and liquidated and, lots of workers lost their jobs in the factories.

However, referring to the last decade, more precisely to the first seven years of this 21-th century, Wood-processing industry and production of furniture in sovereign Republic of Macedonia are being characterized by many capital expenditures, (mainly by domestic investors) whose value is about several hundred million euros. In this period of time, several small and medium companies, which in fact, are making the core of to-day's Wood-processing industry and production of furniture, were founded.

Nowadays, companies from the sphere of Wood-processing industry and production of furniture have been distributing their products on the domestic market as well as on the markets in the former Yugoslav republics, in the countries of EU, USA, China, Japan and etc. Considering that they deserve a special place in this publication and without an intention to privilege or depreciate any of them I'm going to mention only the most successful companies from this industrial branch. These are the following ones: ISTRA - Kochani, BUJOTO - Skopje, DESPINA - Kavadarci, BAROK - Struga, MOLIKA - Tetovo, MAHAGONI - Kumanovo, WIC PLACHKOVICA - Radovish, BORDING - Vinica, INTER FANTAZI - Tetovo, DRVOEKSPORT STIL - Kumanovo, ZONA MEBEL - Skopje, DIZAJN FANTAZIJA - Skopje, FATINA - Gostivar and INTEREKSPORT - Strumica.

It is very important to stress the fact that almost all of the companies from this industrial branch are export-oriented. They feel the need, will and readiness for foreign capital inflow and investments, in order to provide more significant presence for their products on the foreign markets. For that matter, these companies have a constant communication with a great number of foreign companies.

Companies from this industrial branch are being faced with many priorities. Development of new up-to-date machines, adoption of the novelties from the sphere of Information technology (IT) and a strong co-operation with many companies which have been functioning in the countries of the European Union as well as companies from the USA, Canada, Japan, China and other countries, are only three of the many more important priorities of Macedonian Wood-processing industry and production of furniture.

Finally, taking this advantage to express my gratitude to the Publishing house BALKANIKA for being the author of the Introduction for the activity Wood-processing industry and production of furniture, I'm also going to wish a successful future development to all companies from this industrial branch.

**Mite Cebov**