



## Welcome Message to the participants of the 18th International Exhibition Lesdrevmash 2020

**D**ear Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a very challenging year for all of us and the companies in our industry. The exhibition industry in particular has been hit extremely hard all over the world and is actually facing new challenges created by the Corona pandemic. Social distancing, the implementation of hygiene and safety measures and the acceleration of the digitalization trend are just a few examples of so called "Corona effects" in the event sector.

Despite the challenges created by Corona, I am very happy and enthusiast to welcome you all at Lesdrevmash 2020. In the next four days, more than 100 companies will gather here in Moscow to adapt to the new way of doing business in the post Corona era. Nevertheless, despite the difficult economic times, I am confident that this is a good starting point to get back to normality, too. I am sure that Lesdrevmash and its supporting events such as conferences and forums will create a market place worthwhile visiting.

Russia, representing a great market potential for wood-working machinery with an imported value of USD 402 million in 2019, needs our attention and therefore I am very pleased that all efforts were taken to make this fair happen. Many European countries are interested in the Russian market, so Expocentre will become the meeting platform for demand and offer of machine and tools of excellent quality and modern technologies from all over Europe.

In this new phase, Eumabois, as European Federation of Woodworking Machinery Manufacturers, has strongly recommend to each trade organizer to follow a strong plan and communication campaign for a "Corona Safe Exhibition" in order to reassure and prepare both exhibitors and visitors adequately. Working with proper and efficient guidelines is essential to tackle the huge challenge created by Corona and we are confident that Lesdrevmash will be ready for this important test.

Today, more than ever, a joint commitment is required to face this global crisis that has affected our private lives, our industry and many other businesses dramatically. Our best response to the challenges created by Corona is to stay focused, positive and united for our joint targets. We have to be aware of the strategic value that Lesdrevmash represents in such uncertain times and of its importance for all companies in Russia and also in the neighbouring countries.

I want to express my best wishes for the launch of this exhibition and I am sure that it will be up to the expectations. Finally, I want to address my deep gratitude for the professional cooperation and support we received from our partner, the organizer of this exhibition – Lesdrevmash 2020!

All the best to you and stay safe!

**Jürgen Köppel**  
Eumabois President