



**Technological Educational Institution (TEI) of Thessaly
Dept. of Wood & Furniture Design and Technology**

A higher-education University institution at the Greek academic system
Laboratory of Wood Technology (Director: Prof. George Mantanis)

20 Aug. 2013

Karditsa, Greece

Dear Mr. Stratos Psaros

I send you below all the necessary *technical information* requested:

Wooden Chairs (*traditional*) made in Greece (*as shown in the photos below*)

Lower part of a chair (= wooden legs)

In the Greek wood products market, the legs of such wooden chairs are made from European beech wood (*Fagus sylvatica*), a high density wood of good quality, without defects, usually out of *steamed wood* so to have a uniform colour. The legs are commonly varnished with aqueous-based varnishes (e.g. light-brown colours) for weather and moisture protection.

Upper part of a chair (= seat, straw mat)

The upper part is hand-made of a knitted mat composed of natural straw (*Typha latifolia*) fibres. This, in Greece is called *ψαθί* or *ψάθα* or *τύφη* (Greek botanical name). It is consisted by a fibre mat which has been knitted altogether, following a traditional east Mediterranean method. The leaves of the straw are collected wet; then naturally dried out in the air. Afterwards they are sold, but before they be knitted are re-wetted to become soft and flexible, and knittable. The information about the upper part of this chair, that is *straw mat*, is given as follows:

1. Country of origin: *Greece (also, found in all Mediterranean countries)*
2. Botanical name: *Typha latifolia (usually grown in the banks of small rivers)*
3. Common names: *Typha; Cattail; other common names include: Bulrush, Common Bulrush, Great Reedmace, Cooper's reed, Cumbungi.*
4. Plant parts used (e.g. roots, leaves, flowers): *Leaves (only).*
(*ref. The leaves of cattail are used to weave baskets and chair seats-backs*)

5. Fresh or dried form? *Dried form, as in the chair (collected wet, and sun or air dried gradually; if left wet, it will be rotted by biological fungi).*
6. If the straw is mechanically processed and details of process (e.g. crushing or grinding?)- If applicable; *No crushing; no grinding; no chemicals; it is only re-wetted before the knitting process; then, it is naturally air dried.*
7. Preparation details (e.g boiled in water at specified temperature for a specified duration- if applicable; *No boiling; no additives; no chemicals used; no machinery; hand-made products of straw mats.*
8. Bleaching details (if applicable); *Absolutely no bleaching.*
9. Cleaning methods (if applicable); *None.*
10. Drying and or heating details (if applicable). *The mat is dried naturally in the air, and normal climatic conditions. No drying with heating.*

These wooden *furniture* products (chairs) are safe, with no chemicals, and possess no hazard for the humans and/or environment and we suggest them as the best of the *so-called traditional chair products* (used in the past in large quantities). Nowadays, in the Greek market are rather rare.

We remain at your disposal.

Best regards,



Professor George Mantanis Email mantanis@teilar.gr

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photo 1



photo 2



Handwritten signature in blue ink, possibly reading "K. R. ..."