

# Press Release

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**For immediate release**

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## **Turn down the radiator to turn down our reliance on foreign energy supply Eurima's comments on today's release of the Strategic Energy Review for Europe.**

As the Russian, Belarus energy crisis hits Europe's energy supply, its sobering to think that simple measures to reduce energy use in Europe's homes could make the European Union practically immune to such problems. With over 40% of Europe's energy being used in buildings and it possible to reduce this by 50% through simple measures, such as roof and wall insulation, it is time to turn down the radiator and protect Europe from future energy disputes.

In its Strategic Energy Review, the European Commission recognised the key role that energy efficiency in buildings can contribute as it did in its Energy Efficiency Action Plan. However, what is needed is full backing from Heads of State to prioritise buildings at their Spring Summit.

*"Reducing Europe's energy use in buildings would not only save energy but save Europe 270 billion EURO a year in energy costs,"* explained Jakob Sørensen, Eurima's President. Jakob Sørensen continued, *"As this would also lead to an estimated 530,000 jobs and a reduction of 460 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, there are zero reasons not to act."*

Commenting specifically on the release of the Strategic Energy Review for Europe, Jakob Sørensen, Eurima's President, said:

*"Europe needs to focus on energy savings. The European Commission is right to say that improved energy efficiency has the potential to make the most decisive contribution to achieving sustainability, competitiveness and security of supply. Energy efficiency is no longer an option but a necessity for Europe."*

The European Commission's Strategic Energy Review will be discussed by national Ministers in February. Eurima hopes that energy efficiency in buildings will be given a very high priority. Eurima is also calling the Member States to endorse the European Commission's Action Plan for Energy Efficiency and in particular to support the:

- removal of the threshold of 1,000m<sup>2</sup> for renovation of existing buildings within the European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive;
- putting in place of minimum energy efficiency standards for new and existing buildings and components across the EU;
- development of a programme to support the deployment of passive houses;
- creation of national energy efficiency funds to support cost-effective action.

## Background Information

### 1. Eurima

- Eurima is the European Association of Insulation Manufacturers and represents the interests of all major mineral wool insulation producers throughout Europe. Eurima members employ over 20,000 people across Europe with the installation of insulation products accounting for an estimated 300,000 man-years
- Eurima members manufacture mineral wool insulation products. These products are used in residential and commercial buildings as well as industrial facilities. Glass and stone wool insulation secure a high level of comfort, low energy costs and minimised CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Mineral wool insulation prevents heat loss through roofs, walls, floors, pipes and boilers, reduces noise pollution and protects homes and industrial facilities from the risk of fire.

### 2. Energy Use in Buildings

- Currently over 40% of all Europe's energy is used in buildings, this is more than is used in either transport or industry.
- Measures such as roof and wall insulation can cut this energy use in half, reducing energy use across the EU by 20%, saving the equivalent of 3.3 million barrels of oil a day.

### 3. Cost Savings from Action

- A concerted effort to reduce energy use in buildings across the EU 25 would save Europeans approximately 270 billion EURO a year in energy costs.
- This figure is based on a finding of the Ecofys VI (2006) study, which uses today's energy costs as the basis for future energy prices.

### 4. Environmental Benefits

- The major environmental benefit from reducing energy use in buildings is a decrease in carbon dioxide emissions.
- The technical potential from buildings across the EU is a CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction of 460 million tonnes (Mt) per year, which is more than the EU's total Kyoto commitment.
- If a concerted action was launched today to improve energy efficiency in buildings, a CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction of 83 Mt per year by 2010 could be achieved with this figure rising to 144 Mt per year by 2015 and the technical potential of 460 Mt per year being reached by 2032.

### 5. Job Potential

- Improving energy efficiency in buildings would require a major effort to renovate existing homes, which has the potential to create significant jobs across the EU.
- It is estimated that a concerted effort to improve energy efficiency in buildings would lead to the creation of the equivalent of up to 530,000 full time jobs across the EU 25.
- These jobs would remain for the entire period of the renovation cycle, e.g. 30 years.