Press Release
Brussels, 19 October 2006

For immediate release

III NOTE TO AUDIOVISUAL JOURNALISTS!!!
Edited video and photo highlights of Bob the Builder meeting Commissioner Piebalgs and handing over the energy certificate
to the European school in Brussels will be available to download from 14.00 on the 19th of October via Europe by Satellite.
http://europa.eu.int/comm/avservices/

BOB GOES BACK TO SCHOOL TO PUT THE FOCUS ON ACTION IN BUILDINGS

Today in Brussels, the Commissioner for Energy Andris Piebalgs launched the European Commission’s action plan on energy efficiency. Commissioner Piebalgs, Bob the Builder™, Europe’s leading pre-school character and Eurima, the European Insulation Manufacturers Association, went back to school to highlight the need for immediate action to improve existing buildings in the EU.

Soaring energy prices, growing greenhouse gas emissions, jobs and growth needed; there has never been a time when energy efficiency in buildings was so essential to Europe’s future success.

Today, Commissioner Piebalgs and Bob the Builder™ showed nursery school children at the European School of Brussels in Uccle the energy efficiency potential of their school, the action needed to make it happen and asked them, CAN WE FIX IT? At the same time, the European Commission launched its Action Plan on Energy Efficiency showing national ministers the energy efficiency potential from buildings, the actions needed and asking them the same question, CAN WE FIX IT?

With buildings across the EU accounting for 40% of all energy use and with it possible to cut this energy use in half, by simple measures such as roof and wall insulation, a focus on buildings is essential. With such reductions expected to lead to energy cost savings of 270 billion EURO a year, a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide of 460 million tonnes a year (more than Europe’s total Kyoto Commitment), energy reductions equivalent to 3.3 million barrels of oil a day and the creation of up to 530,000 jobs*, the answer to Europe’s question of “CAN WE FIX IT”, must be a resounding “YES WE CAN” from national governments!

“The European Commission’s Action Plan is a big step in the right direction, but what we now need is for national governments to take on board Bob’s can-do attitude and support the European Commission’s proposals for buildings. We need a “YES WE CAN” from Ministers” explained Horst Biedermann, Director General of Eurima. He continued, “Don’t underestimate the difference insulation in buildings makes: As our recently launched report Ecofys VI (2006) has shown, at current energy prices, 270 billion EURO a year could be saved if existing European homes and buildings were better insulated.”

“Energy efficiency in buildings needs action at the EU level, the national level and the local level, Biedermann continued, “But supporting Europe and getting fully behind this Action Plan is what is needed as a first step. We need the national Ministers to support the concrete proposals Europe is making on buildings. We need a “YES WE CAN” from the EU 25 Ministers”.

* Eurima estimate
Note to editors:

1. The European Commission’s Action Plan on Energy Efficiency was adopted today, the 19th October 2006, and lays out concrete steps for how Europe can improve its energy efficiency and become the world’s most energy efficient region. It includes specific proposals for buildings and identifies buildings as one of the most important areas for action.

2. Bob the Builder and the European Commissioner for Energy, Andris Piebalgs, presented today, the 19th October 2006, one of the European Schools in Brussels with an energy certificate. The energy certificate has been developed by the Fraunhofer Institute of Building Physics and is in line with the requirements laid down in the European Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) on the certification of buildings. The EPBD entered into force across the EU on the 4th January 2006. The certificate provides both information on the current state of energy efficiency of the building, as well as, information on the cost-effective improvements that could be carried-out.

3. The European Commission’s Action Plan will be discussed by national Ministers in November 2006. Eurima is calling on them to support the European Commission’s proposals and in particular to support the:
   ▪ removal of the threshold of 1,000m² for renovation of existing buildings within the EPBD
   ▪ 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

4. For further information on the benefits of energy efficiency in buildings please visit www.eurima.org where studies and fact sheets on the environmental, economic, job and energy security benefits can be found.

COMPANY INFORMATION

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 CO₂ 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.

For further information on energy efficiency in buildings, please visit www.eurima.org or contact:

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BOB THE BUILDER

Bob the Builder first appeared on UK screens in 1999 and is now watched in almost 200 countries winning a Children’s BAFTA for Best Animation along the way. The perfect role model for children aged 2-5 years; the delightfully upbeat Bob the Builder is now the leading preschool brand that helps little people learn teamwork, problem solving and facing obstacles through the power of constructive play.