The European Parliament leads the way: call for a binding target on energy efficiency adopted!

Eurima, the European Insulation Manufacturers Association, congratulates the Members of the European Parliament for having adopted this afternoon a clear call for a 20% binding target for energy efficiency by 2020.

Eurima strongly believes that this binding target would represent an essential step towards putting an end to the enormous waste of energy and natural resources from EU buildings.

The European Parliament is fully aware of this, and the report on the Energy Efficiency Action Plan - which will be the political reference for the Parliament’s position on this matter for the next decade - also calls for a series of ambitious measures in the building sector, notably:

- It calls on the Commission to propose a cost-efficient target for the reduction of the primary energy consumption of buildings;
- It calls on the Member States to implement programmes to support deep renovations for the reduction of energy demand of buildings by at least 50%;
- It states that Member States should be required to include set annual building refurbishment targets in their national action plans on Energy Efficiency;
- It calls Member States to proportionally link the level of financial and/or fiscal support to the level of improvement in energy efficiency;
- It calls on the Commission to propose policy options on how to achieve a nearly zero level building stock by 2050;
- It calls on the Commission and Member States to use investment grade audits and high quality of Energy Performance Certificates.

Jan te Bos, Director General of Eurima, said “with this vote, the European Parliament shows -once again- its political leadership and vision. It is widely accepted that only half of the 20% target would be reached in 2020 if no ambitious action is taken. Meanwhile, technologies to achieve this target already exist. It’s just about political conviction. The EU needs to gear up its efforts on energy efficiency and savings, and the adoption of a binding target is a key step”.

This important political message from the European Parliament comes ahead of the Energy Summit of EU Heads of State and Government, to be held on 4 February 2011, and the adoption of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan, foreseen for March 2011. Eurima urges the Commission and the EU Member States to listen to the Parliament’s clear call and put the necessary means to make energy efficiency a reality as soon as possible.

“There should be no excuses” added te Bos “an EU-wide target for energy efficiency will address EU’s environmental objectives, tackle energy security concerns, boost job creation, promote innovation and re-launch the economy. All this, while preserving a maximum level of subsidiarity, as Member States will have full flexibility regarding the sectors to be targeted, the level of ambition for each sector, and the measures to be implemented.”
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 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.

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 and reducing its consumption 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 used the “then” peak price of 70 USD a barrel of oil as a basis for the calculation; the most recent peak price (15/12/2010) was just over 90 USD a barrel.

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 CO₂ emission reduction of 460 million tonnes (Mt) per year, which is more than the EU’s total Kyoto commitment.

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.

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

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