Press Release
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For immediate release

50 YEARS ON AND EURIMA IS MORE COMMITTED THAN EVER TO SAVE EUROPEANS' ENERGY

The European insulation manufacturers’ association celebrates its 50th anniversary

Eurima, the European Insulation Manufacturers Association, celebrates today its 50th anniversary during its General Assembly. Eurima 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 has promoted the energy-saving potential of insulation in buildings for 50 years - but the importance of our work has never been clearer than today," stated Jakob Sørensen, Eurima’s President.

In the recent years, Eurima has been particularly active to put energy efficiency in buildings at the top of the European priorities, through scientific research and a close dialogue with various stakeholders in Europe.

Eurima’s work has demonstrated that the role of the building sector is crucial, if Europe wants to address its future economic and environmental challenges. Buildings consume 40% of the EU’s total energy yet, this energy use could be cut in half through simple measures such as wall and roof insulation. A study released in 2006 showed that, with a price of barrel of oil at 70 USD, this would save the EU 270 billion Euro a year in energy cost. This would also reduce CO₂ emissions by 460 million tonnes annually and create up to an estimated 530,000 jobs in Europe.

With today’s price of barrel of oil closer to $135, Eurima is committed to help the European Union capture the huge saving potential of sustainable insulation products such as mineral wool. "The consequences of rising energy prices for our wallets and for our environment, mean that we must make Europe’s buildings the most energy efficient in the world," said Jacob Bos, Eurima’s Director General.

He continued: "The EU in 2008, has a unique opportunity to take a decisive step in safeguarding an energy efficient future for the generations to come; but for this we need ambition, especially in the Strategic Energy Policy Review and the recasting of the EPBD (Energy Performance of Buildings Directive)."

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1 “Sensitivity Analysis of Cost Effective Climate Protection in the EU Building Stock”, Ecofys VI - June 2006
Background Information

1. Eurima
   - 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. The Eurima Ecofys studies
   Since 2002, Eurima has been working with Ecofys, an independent and international consultancy specialised in energy saving and renewable energy solutions, to develop a deeper understanding of the potential from buildings. These studies have revealed that:
   - Buildings account for 40% of Europe’s CO₂ emissions but thermal insulation could cut these emissions in half [Ecofys I, 2002];
   - In its current form the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) will capture only 10% of the potential from buildings but a fully extended EPBD could reduce total emissions from buildings by 460 million tonnes a year [Ecofys II, 2004 and V, 2005];
   - Capturing the potential from buildings would save Europe 270 billion Euro a year in energy costs, based on a price scenario of 70 USD a barrel of oil), [Ecofys III 2005, IV 2005 and VI 2006], whilst creating up to an estimated 530,000* jobs in Europe.

3. 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.

4. Cost Savings from Action
   - A concerted effort to reduce energy use in buildings across the EU 25 would save Europeans, at recent energy price levels, 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 (22 May 2008) was 135 USD a barrel.

5. 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;
   - If a concerted action was launched today to improve energy efficiency in buildings, a CO₂ 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.

* Eurima estimate
For further information on energy efficiency in buildings, please visit [www.eurima.org](http://www.eurima.org) or contact:

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