The Parliament’s Energy Committee takes a small step towards saving Europe 7.5 billion EURO a year in energy costs

Brussels – 20 April 2005

The European Parliament’s Industry, Research and Energy Committee today took a first step towards making energy efficiency a higher priority for Europe. They supported the European Commission’s call for mandatory targets for reducing energy use across the EU and in doing so have created a much needed push towards a more rational use of energy in Europe.

Commenting on the vote Horst Biedermann, Director General of Eurima, said:

“Only a few weeks ago Eurima provided proof to the European Parliament that reducing energy use in buildings could save Europe 7.5 billion EURO a year by 2010. Today’s vote is a good step, not only towards a more energy efficient Europe but towards capturing some of this 7.5 billion EURO in savings that exists in the building sector.’

He continued:

“This vote is however only a small step. More ambition is needed and Eurima hopes that as a minimum the Parliament as a whole will maintain this 1% target, when they vote in plenary. If they do not it will be another lost opportunity to make Europe more energy efficient, more competitive and more sustainable.

Note for editors

Eurima has recently published a major new study into the cost-effectiveness of action to improve the energy efficiency of buildings through improved insulation. The study demonstrates that the EU could save 7.5 billion EURO a year by 2010, whilst reducing dependence on foreign energy supplies and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Based on these findings Eurima also estimates that this action would create 300 000 new jobs and are therefore calling on the EU to reduce heat related energy use in buildings by 20% by 2020.

Apart from the call for a 20% reduction in energy use in buildings by 2020, EURIMA specifically calls for a revision of the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive to include buildings below 1000m², incentives to provide EU funding for energy efficiency improvements and reduced VAT on energy efficiency products. Providing consumers with regular information on the cost-effectiveness of energy efficiency as well as best practice sharing between Member States complete the action list that EURIMA has put forward.
Company information

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.

To receive a copy of the new ECOFYS report and for further information material, please visit [www.eurima.org](http://www.eurima.org) or contact:

Lena Esteves  
Avenue Louise 375, Box 4  
1050 Brussels  
Phone: +32 (0)2 626 2090  
Fax: +32 (0)2 626 2099  
info@eurima.org  
[www.eurima.org](http://www.eurima.org)