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3.5 million barrels of oil a day could be saved
Eurima comments on the Commission’s response to the current high oil prices

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Today, following the European Commission’s discussions on the current high oil price, Commissioner Piebalgs, Europe’s Energy Chief, expressed the urgent need for more action to curb demand for energy.

Energy saving measures such as reducing energy use in buildings, were among the areas where Commissioner Piebalgs identified the need for action. Such energy saving being crucial to reduce Europe’s dependence on imported oil.

Commenting on Commissioner Piebalgs’s statements Eurima’s Director General, Horst Biedermann, said:

“Commissioner Piebalgs is right to highlight the role of energy efficiency and the place to start, as he identified in his Green Paper on energy efficiency, is buildings, as the potential for energy savings is huge.”

Biedermann explained:

“Based on recent research, it has been identified that there is a potential to reduce energy use in buildings in Europe by the equivalent of 3.5 million barrels of oil a day simply through the renovation of the existing building stock. At the same time a rolling program to capture this potential would create around 530,000 jobs (Eurima estimate) and save Europe almost 8 billion EURO a year”.

He continued:

“The evidence is clear and accepted by the Commission. What is however needed and needed quickly, is a concrete action plan for energy efficiency in buildings that sets out a clear road map for capturing the huge potential from buildings.”

Note for editors

Eurima has recently published a major new study on the cost-effectiveness of action to improve the energy efficiency of buildings through improved insulation. The study demonstrates that the EU could save over 8 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 close to 530,000* new jobs and are therefore calling on the EU to reduce heat related energy use in buildings by 20% by 2020.

* These figures now also include the findings from a soon to be published study that have extended the original 15 Member States study to include the new Member States of the European Union.
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, completes 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, please visit [www.eurima.org](http://www.eurima.org) or contact:

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