

Press Release

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ECO-PLATFORM TAKES AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Eurima, the European Insulation Manufacturers Association, congratulates Eco-Platform with the achievement of a first level of mutual recognition between the different European Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) program operators but points-out that full mutual recognition must remain the end-goal.

The Communication on Resource Efficiency in the Construction Sector published in July 2014 by the European Commission established the lowering of the sector's overall environmental impact as a clear European objective. EPDs will play an increasingly critical role in raising the sustainability performance of buildings.

Until today in most of the European Member States, there has been a specific program-operator organizing the verification and publication of EPD's for construction products. This plethora of systems is a burden to industry, confuses the consumers and is functioning as a barrier to trade.

Since the beginning of the Eco-Platform Memorandum of Understanding in 2013, the Mineral Wool Insulation industry has been actively involved in this initiative as the industry believes that full mutual recognition of EPD's between program operators, is a crucial step forward and in line with the pioneering role of the Mineral Wool Insulation industry in the development of LCAs (1st LCA in 1990...) and in the standardization process (CEN TC350).

In a reaction to the progress report given on 16 October 2014 by Eco-Platform, including the hand-over of a number of Eco-EPD, for which there is a mutual recognition of the verification and which are all aligned with EN15804, Vincent Briard, Convenor of the Sustainable Construction Committee at Eurima stated: *"Today is a very important step in the right direction, but one that should not be considered as final. A number of next steps are needed if we want the ECO Platform EPD initiative to really impact the future of the construction sector. We should not lose the benefit of such a positive momentum."*

In parallel to the work within Eco-Platform there is a role for public authorities to avoid the current barriers to trade in the field of EPD's, such as the national requirements on additional indicators and mandatory background databases.

Eurima invites Eco-Platform to increase its efforts to achieve a full mutual recognition between the program operators and deliver direct added-value and reduced costs and administrative burdens for construction product manufacturers.

ENDS

Background Information

Eurima

Eurima is the European Insulation Manufacturers Association, representing the interests of all major mineral wool insulation producers throughout Europe. Eurima members employ over 21,000 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 sustainable buildings, please visit www.eurima.org or contact:

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