

Press Release

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“Construction Strategy must focus on buildings’ real impact” says Eurima

INSULATION MANUFACTURERS WELCOME THE COMMISSION’S INITIATIVE BUT
ASK FOR LONG-TERM VISION AND LIFE-CYCLE THINKING

Eurima, the European Insulation Manufacturers Association welcomed today’s publication of the European Commission’s Communication “Resource Efficiency Opportunities in the Construction Sector” as an important first step towards the EU’s 2020 objectives in the field, but asked for further harmonized life cycle assessment methods and a long term vision.

“Resource efficiency in the construction sector must be anchored in a robust long-term vision for sustainable buildings” Jan te Bos, EURIMA’s General Director *“This vision must look at the wider environmental impacts through the life-cycle of a building and take into account the huge potential of improving the energy performance of buildings, while also encouraging important characteristics of buildings, such as its safety and comfort”*.

Eurima has long advocated for sustainability assessment of buildings to take into account all phases of the lifecycle, an approach that captures the environmental impact of a building in a more coherent, holistic manner.

“The construction sector is being flooded by a proliferation of green labels” continued te Bos *“and this is confusing consumers because criteria and process on which they are based are all different. Harmonized life cycle assessment methods will give the market and consumers clarification and will support future steps changes in the construction sector”*.

The proposal in the Communication to develop a set of core indicators for sustainable buildings has been particularly welcomed by Eurima, who believes that indicators must focus on real environmental outcomes such as carbon dioxide emissions or primary energy consumption. However, indicators such as recycled content should be looked at as means to achieve targets for the selected indicators. Integrating recycled content and recyclability are part of the Eurima solution to achieve a circular economy. In the political process to come, it will be important to clearly differentiate between goals and means in order to drive the market towards actions that will be really sustainable and economically viable.

Eurima calls for an all-encompassing long term vision on sustainable buildings as the best way to ensure investment security and policy transparency, avoiding lock-in effects in resource efficiency due to the lifetime of the buildings and their renovation cycles. *“In this way”* concluded Jan te Bos *“the objective of a highly performing sustainable EU building stock will be an incentive for EU competitiveness and sustainable growth”*.

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 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.

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