

## EFPI members raised parquet imports by 33 %

According to statistics published in mid-June 2006, the members of the European Federation of Parquet Importers (EFPI) in Brussels raised the volume of their imports by 33 % in 2005 to 10.57m m<sup>2</sup> (2004: 7.94m m<sup>2</sup>) of wooden flooring. Federation president Jürgen Früchtenicht said a major proportion of these imports came from China and Indonesia.

Imports of multi-ply, ready-to-install parquet flooring rose by a total of 33 % to 9.87m m<sup>2</sup> (7.45m m<sup>2</sup>). The total volume of imported multi-ply parquet flooring is split into 198,245 m<sup>2</sup> (133,966 m<sup>2</sup>) of two-ply parquet and 9.67m m<sup>2</sup> (7.31m m<sup>2</sup>) of three and multi-ply parquet flooring. Imports of two-ply parquet in 2005 hence increased by 48 % against the previous year. Imports of three- and multi-ply parquet rose by 32 %. The imported volume of solid parquet flooring climbed by 44 % to 702,498 m<sup>2</sup> (487,922 m<sup>2</sup>). Within this segment the imports of products in the 'Decking' group almost trebled at 239,345 m<sup>2</sup> (82,132 m<sup>2</sup>). Imports of 'Lamparquet' rose by 68 % to 189,079 m<sup>2</sup> (112,447 m<sup>2</sup>), and in the product group 'Finger-jointed solid flooring' the volume of imports rose by 29 % to 50,368

m<sup>2</sup> (39,046 m<sup>2</sup>). In contrast, imports of 'Mosaic Parquet' fell by 52 % to 21,003 m<sup>2</sup> (43,757 m<sup>2</sup>). Imports of 'Planks/Strips' dropped by 4 % to 202,673 m<sup>2</sup> (210,540 m<sup>2</sup>). The EFPI published import figures this year for the first time since it was founded in July 2005. The basis for the data was provided by a poll amongst all the companies that were EFPI members on 31 December 2005. These comprised Amorim Wood Supplies GmbH (Bremen/Germany), Fetim B.V., Amsterdam (Zoeterwoude/Holland), Oscar Peschardt & Co. Norge (Kristiansand/Norway), Listor Lda. (Linda-a-Velha/Portugal), Otto Parquet S.L. (Cervelló/Spain), Ekowood S.A. (Luxembourg), and Euro Covering S.L. (Barcelona/Spain). In future the statistics will also include the figures of the Danish importer Everfloor (Ishøj) and those of the members of the parquet importer association Euparal (Dordrecht/Holland). Everfloor has been an EFPI member since mid-January 2006. Euparal had applied for EFPI membership at the beginning of February 2006 and has been listed as an individual member since the end of April. Euparal currently has 14 members of its own. □