



Press Release

EFPI welcomes its new President and holds General Assembly at Domotex

Brussels, 15 January 2007 - The European Federation of Parquet Importers (EFPI), an association of leading European importers of engineered and solid wood floorings, held its seventh General Assembly in Hannover on 12 January. The meeting, organized on the occasion of the Domotex fair, was chaired by EFPI's new President, Rafael Michavila García from Euro Covering S.L, who was elected by the EFPI General Assembly that met in Brussels on 29 September 2006.

Mr Michavila García succeeded to Jürgen Früchtenicht from Amorim Wood Supplies GmbH, one of the founding members of EFPI. In addition, Ruud Steenvoorden (Fetim) was confirmed as Vice-President of EFPI and Frode Overa (OPC) in his position of Treasurer.

After his election, Mr Michavila García commented: *"I am delighted to have been appointed to preside our federation. I intend to work closely with the Board, the Secretariat and all EFPI members to continue promoting the use of wood flooring in Europe and positioning the role of the wood flooring import industry towards key audiences at EU level. We will also keep on looking into the relevant legislative framework as regards standards and trade policy in particular". "Despite of its recent creation, the EFPI has become a trusted organisation contributing to the development of policies of relevance to the wood industry. I am confident that through EFPI's activities our industry's concerns and interests will be taken into consideration by decision-makers in the future"*, concluded Michavila García.

On 12 January EFPI members took stock of activities to date, held an open discussion about future plans for the association and exchanged information about market trends and European and global developments. They will hold their next gathering in Brussels in June.

The EFPI recently participated in the China Wood Exporters & Importers Conference that took place in Shanghai from the 8th to the 11th of November. In this occasion, the Vice President of the EFPI, Ruud Steenvoorden gave a presentation on "The European Wood Flooring Industry, Market Development and Opportunity for China", illustrating trends in demand and consumption of wood flooring in Europe, growth potential, consumer preferences, etc. EFPI also contributed to the International Flooring Leader Summit Forum, where leaders of Chinese industry associations and large-scale flooring companies had the opportunity to exchange views with overseas market players about industry cooperation.

The European Federation of Parquet Importers (EFPI) is a Brussels-based association of leading European importers of engineered and solid wood floorings. EFPI was founded in June 2005 and aims to facilitate the discussion of ideas among importers about the promotion of wood flooring in Europe, to share information about EU legislation, standardisation and issues concerning international trade for the parquet industry.

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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF PARQUET IMPORTERS