



Press Release

The European Federation of Parquet Importers announces its 2006 objectives at Domotex

Hannover, 16 January 2006 - The European Federation of Parquet Importers (EFPI), an association of leading European importers of engineered and solid wood floorings, today presented to the press at Domotex its achievements to date and its plans for 2006 and beyond.

Launched by the initiative of a group of European parquet import companies in July 2005, EFPI now counts eight founding members and is currently holding contacts with other interested companies and organisations aimed at expanding its membership.

At its General Assembly of 18 November in Brussels, EFPI was registered as a non-for-profit association under Belgian Law and the hosting and management of its secretariat was assigned to Brussels-based consulting company, Interel Public Relations & Public Affairs. At the same meeting the members also appointed a Treasurer and its Secretary General. Mr Frode Overa from Oscar Peschardt & Co. was nominated Treasurer of the association to integrate EFPI's Board and work with the President (Jürgen Früchtenicht from Amorin Wood Supplies GmbH) and the Vice-President (Ruud Steenvoorden from Fetim BV). Valeria Fagone, European Public Affairs Consultant at Interel Public Relations & Public Affairs, was appointed Secretary General of EFPI. Ms Fagone, supported by a team of public affairs and association management consultants, is now responsible for the daily management of the association, its representation towards the EU Institutions and the standardisation bodies, and for supporting the members with the development of communication and lobbying strategies and their implementation.

EFPI's 2006 plans provide among others for the collection of data and the publication of statistics on imports in Europe of solid, two-ply, multi-layer engineered floating timber flooring and decking for 2004 and 2005.

Jürgen Früchtenicht, President of EFPI, commented *"Now that the structure of EFPI is in place and that an office has been established in Brussels, we will focus on communicating the role of the wood flooring import industry to key audiences at EU level and we will look into the relevant legislative framework as regards standards and trade policy in particular. Importers in Europe share the same interests and concerns, therefore, we will work closely together in the future to ensure that our sector's views and messages are conveyed to the relevant stakeholders"*.

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