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MINERAL WOOL MANUFACTURERS WELCOME CHANCELLOR'S PRE-BUDGET REPORT

Eurisol, the association of UK mineral wool insulation manufacturers, has welcomed the Chancellor's 2006 Pre-Budget Report which sets out an ambition for all new homes to be zero carbon within a decade, and which offers a time-limited stamp duty exemption for the vast majority of new zero-carbon homes.

Crispin Dunn-Meynell, General Secretary of Eurisol, said: "We believe the steps outlined by the Chancellor send out a clear signal to the construction industry – and the nation -- that it takes energy efficiency and carbon emissions in new homes extremely seriously.

"We welcome this lead by the Government for a programme which we believe is eminently achievable. Having participated in exemplar low-energy programmes elsewhere in Europe, our member companies have the experience to enable us to help develop a solution today. The mineral wool insulation industry will play a vital role in achieving these zero carbon targets, whilst also delivering acoustic and fire protection benefits in a sustainable manner.

"Meanwhile, there is an enormous amount to be done if existing housing is to contribute effectively to the Government's carbon emission and energy targets. Over 10 million homes in the UK would benefit from cavity wall insulation, while half of the UK's 23 million homes have 150mm of loft insulation or less, compared with the recommended thickness of 270mm of mineral wool."

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Eurisol recently provided input to the Code for Sustainable Homes, which will be launched on December 13 by Ruth Kelly, Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The Code is intended as a single national standard to guide industry in the design for sustainable building practice. The Chancellor announced in his Pre-Budget Report that the Government would be setting out a consultative timetable for progressively strengthening building regulations in England and Wales to reflect the energy efficiency levels set out in the Code.

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For further editorial information contact:

Ken Harrison, HPR Marketing, on 07801 649045 or email kharrison:hprmarketing.co.uk

or

Crispin Dunn-Meynell, General Secretary, Eurisol on 020 7935 8532 or email info@eurisol.com