PRESS RELEASE

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PAPER INDUSTRY CELEBRATES 15th ANNIVERSARY AND LOOKS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN EUROPE


The three day event brings together over 350 people from the pulp paper industry, related organisations and the EU institutions and provides a high-level platform for discussion. This year the theme of the event was “The European paper industry: Adding value today for tomorrow”.

The CEPI Annual Meeting, the key plenary event held during the European Paper Week, saw presentations from EU Commissioner, Günther Verheugen; the Portuguese Secretary of State for Rural Affairs & Forests, Rui Nobre Gonçalvez and Prof. Philippe Chalmin of Université Paris-Dauphine as well as representatives of the international Energy Authority and Sitra – the Finnish Innovation Fund.

“This event gives the entire European pulp and paper industry an annual opportunity to meet and discuss issues pertinent to our activities and we have used this occasion to rise above the challenges presented and find opportunities for our industry to build a positive future” said Teresa Presas, Managing Director of CEPI.

“We are at a turning point in Europe striving to meet two imperative goals, sustainability and competitiveness. We are well placed to match these two dimensions while policy measures are sometimes conflicting. This is especially true when we look at the current drive towards the use of renewable energy sources that puts our industry on an uneven playing field when we look at wood, our industry’s raw material, as the same conditions and price structures are not applied as they are for other paper making. And yet, the recent EU study EU industrial structure 2007 - Challenges and opportunities shows that the pulp and paper industry is on the right track as one of the most competitive manufacturing sectors in the EU.

“European Paper Week has given us the opportunity to explore the challenges we face and I am confident that we can actively contribute if polices are right and equitable. I am also sure that we have a positive approach that will allow us to continue providing jobs and prosperity as well as valued products through the sustainable and diverse use of our renewable resources” she concluded.
Notes to Editor:

The 3rd CEPI Sustainability Report can be downloaded from www.cepi.org or hard copies can be requested from mail@cepi.org.

CEPI aisbl - The Confederation of European Paper Industries
The European paper industry is one of the most competitive and sustainable in Europe producing 100 million tonnes of paper and board and 40 million tonnes of pulp annually. It provides directly 230,000 jobs and indirectly 2,950,000 jobs along the forest and paper chain. The paper sector makes a vital contribution to the quality of every day life, and through its commitment to research and innovation, to that of tomorrow.

CEPI champions the interests of the pulp and paper industry in Europe, representing those interests towards the European Institutions. It monitors, analyses and acts upon EU legislation and initiatives relevant to industry, communicating on the industry’s achievements and the benefits of its products. Through CEPI, the paper industry makes expert and constructive contributions to the official European consultation process with industry. CEPI directly represents the National Associations of the paper industry in 17 member countries across Europe.

Through its 17 member countries* CEPI represents 800 pulp, paper and board producing companies across Europe, ranging from small and medium sized companies to multi-nationals, and 1,200 paper mills. Together they represent 28% of world production.

(15 European Union members plus Norway and Switzerland)*