SUMMARY INNOVAWOOD GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND WORKSHOPS
26th & 27th January 2006, Rome, Italy

Review of 2005
Denis McGowan, Secretary General of InnovaWood reported on the activities carried out in 2005 by the Secretariat, specifically highlighting collaborative activities during the year, including: development of the Forest Technology Platform, joint workshop with COST E31, communications to members, dissemination of InnovaWood and its member organisations at European events and involvement with stakeholder groups in the sector.

Outlook 2006
The expected activities for 2006 include: a focus on *Seventh Framework Programme*; continued work on projects in progress (*EFORWOOD* and *InnovaWood SSA*) and project proposed (*eSTEP*); recruitment of new members and communication mechanisms using the members area of the InnovaWood website; involvement of InnovaWood as dissemination partner for EU projects and continued collaboration with EU Commission and other sector organisations.

Workshop "Getting Ready for Framework 7"
The Seventh Framework Programme for European research is expected to start in January 2007 and operate for a seven year period until the end of 2013. Framework 7 will be divided into four main themes: 'Cooperation', 'Ideas', 'People' and 'Capacities'. The Implementation Phase is when the programme is launched and the 'Calls for Proposals' are published. All of the websites can be found in an open web page www.hyperion.ie/fp7websites.htm .

Members of InnovaWood Board with Dr Sean McCarthy of Hyperion at the Network meeting in Rome, January 2006

Parallel workshops covering the Divisions of InnovaWood

Education and Training: Dr Heinz Müller of HSB reported on the workshops of Paris and Warsaw and presented the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). The MOU is aiming to reach a common understanding about the educational needs and standards in the sector, leading ultimately to mutual recognition of qualifications among the centres of education in Europe.

Research, Technology, Development and Innovation: Vahik Enjily, International Director of BRE, reported on the RTDI strategy focus including two main goals: i) to develop direct research and development towards the needs of industry and society ii) to support the development of the capacity and capability for new knowledge in SMEs and
accelerate the innovation process in the European Forest Based Industries (FBI). A small SWOT survey of the Network was performed during the workshop.

Knowledge transfer: José-Vicente Oliver, AIDIMA, emphasized the importance of the KT as a crucial element for innovation application and, consequently for competitiveness in the forest, woodworking and furniture companies. He specifically highlighted the possibility to use the InnovaWood network as an effective mechanism of dissemination, transfer and exploitation of RTD results for the industry.

Environment and sustainability: Jan-Henrik Hübner, University of Hamburg, Department of Wood Science, reported about the "Effects of emission trading on forest products industries in Europe". Among other conclusions, companies were urged to include the effects of emission trading in all decisionmaking processes. Also presented was "Assessment of the Integrated Environmental Performance of Buildings" by Sebastian Rüter of Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products.

Marie curie Programme *as a mechanism for KT in FP7* presented by Knut Kuppenberg: its objective is to support training, mobility and careers development through reinforced 'Marie Curie actions'. This programme will aim to develop and strengthen the human resources for European research, and to address researchers at all stages of their professional lives, from initial research training to life long learning and career development.

Integrated wood chain: Discussions centred on the development of innovation and compared the focus on technology pull instead of the present approach of technology push. Starting form the consumers needs back along the FWC chain and interpretation of requirements of end users.