



IWTO Reception in Brussels gave tribute to the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009

"Wool and Natural Fibres need stronger policy support!"

Brussels, 19.03.2009

To mark the United Nations International Year of Natural Fibres 2009 and the official launch of the IWTO Roadmap a Reception took place on 18 March 2009 in the Renewable Energy House in Brussels, attended by around 100 representatives from EU Parliament, EU Commission, Embassies and EU Representations, associations, press and industry. The event raised awareness and promoted the efficiency and sustainability of the natural fibre industries and wool as one of the most important natural fibres.

Christine Lins, Director General from the European Renewable Energy Council, highlighted the common goal of the renewable energy and natural fibres. Speakers from the EU Commission, Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), EURATEX and IWTO drew attention to the importance of natural fibres and wool, not only for the textile industry, but for the environment as such. In their statements they made clear that the use of natural fibres must have stronger policy support to pave the way for the use of wool in the relevant application areas. Jo Dawson (IWTO Treasurer), who was present at the event, said *"the positive feedback from the officials within the EU as a result of this event and the recent release of the Roadmap has been overwhelmingly positive. I am very encouraged following this event and believe that with assistance from all IWTO Member Countries, this Lobby Project will bring strong, positive and long-term results that will benefit the whole wool industry. I look forward to hearing further news about the progress being made."*

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IWTO is the international body representing the interests of the world's wool textile trade and industry. Our multi-national membership includes woolgrowers, traders, primary processors, spinners, weavers, and garment manufacturers, together with retailers and other companies involved in wool related businesses.

