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**WOOD
PANEL
INDUSTRIES
FEDERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

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Wood Panel Industries Federation lunches with Political influencers

In the House of Commons on Wednesday, MPs and Peers lunched with members of the Wood Panel Industries Federation and their colleagues representing the wood supply chain and discussed issues affecting the Wood Panel Industry such as the Renewables Obligation. Guest speaker was Gregory Barker MP, Shadow Minister of the Environment who is a strong supporter of the industry and showed a keen understanding of the key problems which manufacturers are currently facing.

Among the Parliamentarians who attended the lunch were Paddy Tipping MP, Chairman of the APPG for the Wood Panel Industry, Lord O'Neill of Clackmannan, former Chairman of the Trade and Industry Select Committee, Timothy Boswell MP, former Forestry Minister and Joan Walley MP, Vice-Chairman of the Environmental Audit Committee.

Alastair Kerr, Director-General of the Wood Panel Industries Federation said after the lunch "This was a wonderful opportunity to chat to our Parliamentary supporters in relaxed and informal surroundings and to thank them for their invaluable work on our behalf over the last year. It also gave our members an opportunity to listen to Greg Barker and hear the Conservative Party's views on the Renewables Obligation."

Alastair Kerr added that, "the APPG has been instrumental in bringing to the attention of Ministers and senior civil servants the concerns of the industry and this is now beginning to bear fruit as we see our concerns being reflected in policy documents"

END

Notes for Editors:

The All Party Parliamentary Group for the Wood Panel Industry was established in December 2003 to raise awareness in Parliament of the issues of concern to the UK Wood Panel Industry, its employees and its customers.

The APPG holds regular meetings in order to discuss the effect of recent legislation on the industry, Government consultations and the contribution that the industry can make to the environment and the economy.

Details of the APPG can be found at: www.appgwoodpanelindustry.co.uk .

For further information please contact:

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