



ThermoWood has a long life-span thanks to a special heat treatment which ensures that no chemicals are needed to guarantee its durability.

## Sawmill bridgeheads for Russia and the Baltic Countries

*New sawmills will promote sustainable wood procurement and the local processing of wood.*

In 2002, Stora Enso and the owners of AS Sylvester, Estonia's largest wood products and wood procurement company, signed an agreement for Stora Enso Timber to acquire majority ownership of Sylvester. This transaction should be closed during the first quarter of 2003, after approval by the competition authorities.

Stora Enso Timber will consequently acquire 66% of the outstanding shares of AS Sylvester's sawmill operations, as well as Sylvester's entire wood procurement operations. Stora Enso Forest Baltic will manage the forest operations and start to formalise and strengthen the traceability system, in order to guarantee the sustainability of fibre sources.

The acquisition also includes a commitment to build three new sawmills over the next few years. Stora Enso has also recently decided to build two sawmills in Russia – at Pitkäranta and Nebolchi. These new sawmills will promote sustainable wood procurement and the local processing of wood.

### Replacing non-renewable products

Wood products have a role in mitigating climate change, particularly when they are used instead of non-renewable building materials. Wood locks up carbon dioxide during its use, and can subsequently be totally recycled into new products, or ultimately burned to produce bio-energy.

Stora Enso Timber has recently been active in product development. ThermoWood and WoodHeart – the most notable recent fruits of this work – are both based on the natural properties of wood in terms of their resilience and resistance to moisture.

ThermoWood undergoes a heat treatment which gives softwood qualities normally only found in hardwoods. Lengthening the life-span of wood products by improving their durability without chemical additives means reduced environmental impacts.

WoodHeart products are made out of the cores of logs. They are ideal for windows and doors, since their consistency and durability are vital properties for both indoor and outdoor use.

Stora Enso Timber has invested considerably in the latest technology for the manufacture of WoodHeart products at Honkalahti Sawmill.

### Virtually no waste

The environmental impacts related to the production and use of wood products for construction are less significant than those of any competing building material such as steel, concrete or plastic. The environmental profile of wood products is further improved by the fact that not a single speck of raw material is wasted. Sawdust, bark, wood-chips and wood-shavings are valuable both as important raw materials for the paper industry, and as bio-fuels. In fact these fibre products generally account for about 48% of the material yield from a log – with the other 52% being used to make solid wood products. ■