

## EXPERT STATEMENT THE FINNISH HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

### NORDIC ECOLABELLING FOR PANELS FOR EXTERIOR USE

The Finnish Homeowners Association thanks for the opportunity to provide an expert statement on the consultation on Nordic Ecolabelling for Panels for exterior use

The Finnish Homeowners Association is the only national advocacy and service organization for homeowners and vacation home owners and residents in Finland. We are promoting a lifestyle centered around single-family and vacation homes.

We are a non-profit and politically independent civil society organization, with approximately 230 member associations comprising around 70,000 individual members (households).

In Finland, there are nearly 1.2 million single-family homes inhabited by around 2.7 million people, as well as 0.5 million leisure-time residences used by 2.5–2.9 million individuals.

According to the consultation, Nordic Swan Ecolabelled panels and cladding for exterior use have a reduced environmental and climate impact throughout their lifecycle – and strict requirements for materials, chemicals and quality promoting circular economy.

Homeowners Association emphasizes the importance of developing environmentally sustainable and ecological building materials for consumers. Single family house- and vacation home owners are responsible for the renovation of their buildings. Also, many take steps on building a new home for their families either themselves or as building project from a professional, such as companies who sell prefabricated house packages. People are interested on environmental aspects and need much more information about the available possibilities.

We believe it to be beneficial to have long duration for the exterior panels as well as different options, of which consumers can choose their preferred products. The extended lifespan of the materials in single family homes is a valued feature. However, we also acknowledge the constantly rising costs of living and the financial means of households. Long durability is advantageous as long as the investment cost for the material remains reasonable enabling consumer to acquire Ecolabelled building materials.

Respectfully yours

The Finnish Homeowners Association ry

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