



Berlin - the bridge between

Despite a recent downturn in prices, metal recyclers attending the BIR convention in Berlin between May 24 and 26 were still largely upbeat about near- to medium-term business prospects. But for some of those delegates involved in the non-metallics sectors - and for textiles recyclers in particular - the outlook appeared altogether less promising.



BIR President Fernando Duranti of Italy.

By Manfred Beck and Ian Martin

In terms of attendance, Berlin provided one of the most successful BIR conventions of recent years in that it attracted well over 750 registered delegates.

The German capital represented a highly appropriate venue since it now formed 'the bridge between old and new Europe' following the enlargement of the European Union less than four weeks prior to the convention, BIR's President Fernando Duranti of Italy told the General Assembly. He expressed the hope that 'the efficient industries and technologies of these new member countries will gradually be put to the benefit of the European Union as a whole, and that continuous improvements and capacity expansions will enable the enlarged EU to remain a solid, competitive business force capable of meeting global challenges'.



From left to right: Robert Stein of the U.S., BIR Director General Francis Veys, and Non-Ferrous Metal Division President Marc Natan of France.



Liebherr's 'Blues Brothers': Rainer Oberdorfer-Bögel (left) and Andreas Scheurl.



old and new Europe



Talking ferrous scrap and recycling equipment are (from left to right): Recycling International's ferrous expert Alfred Nijkerk; Jim Schwartz of Texas Shredder Inc., U.S.; Wolfgang Haberer of Metso Lindemann, Germany; Werner Oberländer of Oberländer Consulting, Germany; and Henk van Doorn of Moros, Spain.

The EU's new member states were already regarded by BIR as potentially 'fertile ground' for its efforts to attract new members of its own, the same meeting was informed by Michael Lion, Chairman of the world recycling body's Membership Committee. And Peter Mathews CMG, Chairman of the Convention Committee, told delegates of the inten-

tion of holding a BIR convention in one of the new EU countries during 2007.

'Free and fair' trade

Support for the principle of 'free and fair trade' was to echo around the Maritim ProArte Hotel in Berlin throughout the three days of the convention. Notably, the board of BIR's Non-Ferrous Metal Division unanimously agreed a common position calling for the 'free and uninhibited movement of scrap material throughout the world, unencumbered by export controls'. This principle was of 'vital importance' to everyone involved in buying, selling, importing and exporting raw materials, Mr Duranti emphasised to the General Assembly in Berlin. 'It is essential that these transactions are not subject to hindrance or use of improper methods to gain a competitive advantage,' he insisted.

Anthony Bird OBE of the U.K., who was formally elected BIR Treasurer after a period as Acting Treasurer, reported the organisation's financial standing to be 'sound' and emphasised the importance of building its reserves. Mr Lion confirmed that 472 companies and 38 National Federations were now associated to BIR, with 41 new members

Recycling art

At the latest BIR convention in Berlin, the German art studio and gallery Kudixart showed off its metal collages. Basically, Kudixart's artists use scrap metal and now also plastics to make their highly original works. 'The pictures are all unique,' explained Monika Pfeffer of Kudixart. 'In our studio, we have a vast number of pictures, but we can also make collages to customers' specifications. The collages come with a certificate guaranteeing that it is a unique work of art.'

In addition to brightly-coloured images made from metal and plastic scrap and chips, Kudixart also makes clocks and small animal statues from metal turnings. 'We ship our works all over the world,' confirms Mrs Pfeffer.

For more information, visit www.kudixart.com



Monika Pfeffer of Kudixart shows off her company's works made from scrap.



Samples of the Kudixart collages.



Marcel Genet of Laplace Conseil, France, spoke at the workshop entitled 'EU enlargement and its possible impact on the metals recycling industry'.



Charming as ever: BIR's Communications Director Elisabeth Christ.

Confusion over Chinese registration

The BIR 'Workshop on China' was devoted to the country's policy requiring registration by all exporters of recyclables to China. The country's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) made an official announcement in December 2003 that laid down new rules to come into effect from July 1 this year concerning customs clearance of imported scrap to mainland China, Macau, Hongkong 'and Taiwan'. This registration system effectively bans flows of scrap material into China from overseas suppliers without special registration with AQSIQ and the body's approval. Registration also involves post-inspection certificates and the acceptance of inspection applications from those suppliers by the inspection and quarantine organisation at each port in China. Thus, all non-Chinese suppliers must have formally registered with AQSIQ before July 2004 if they want to continue exporting scrap to China. After that date, AQSIQ will not accept new applicants for two years.

According to Meng Jianbin, Director of the Chinese Metallurgical Council-CCPIT, his country was taking these procedures in an attempt to secure a tighter grip on scrap imports. 'In 2003, the Chinese inspection authorities found hundreds of batches of scrap containing, among other things, radioactive contaminated material and explosives. As these shipments were partly coming from Russia and Black Sea countries, pre-shipment controls by CCIC will become obligatory in the near future,' Mr Meng explained.

During the meeting, it became clear that the AQSIQ deadline of July 1 2004 was not feasible for many companies. BIR Director General Francis Veys told delegates that his organisation would 'try to delay procedures'. Both BIR and the U.S. recycling organisation ISRI are currently working together to get clarification and guidance on this important and confusing development.

For more information, visit the BIR website at www.bir.org or ISRI's website at www.isri.org

Meng Jianbin of CCPIT (left) and Robert Wang of Guangzhou-based Global Metals explained the Chinese policy covering registration of foreign supply enterprises.



officially ratified at the General Assembly in Berlin. And Mr Mathews CMG outlined proposals to hold BIR conventions in the Chinese capital of Beijing in Spring 2006 and to celebrate the world recycling body's 60th anniversary in Monte-Carlo in 2008.

Keynote speaker at the General Assembly in Berlin was Dr Albert Rohan, former Secretary General of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In a presentation entitled 'Hot Irons of International Politics', he offered delegates a personal assessment of major world issues including: the Israel/Palestine and Iraq conflicts; relations between Europe and the U.S.; and the foreign policies of Russia and China. The speaker called on Europe to play a role in world affairs that was commensurate with its economic weight and experience, and also predicted an opening up of China's closed political society in the wake of economic liberalisation.

International Environment Council

The centrepiece of the International Environment Council (IEC) meeting in Berlin was a presentation by the ELV Director of General Motors Europe Willi Fey, in which he outlined his company's position on the recycling of end-of-life vehicles. Mr Fey called for the directive's reuse and recycling sub-quotas to be removed in favour of pursuing the most appropriate recovery route, and for systems for monitoring recovery rates to be made 'lean and simple'.

A major problem surrounded to transposition of the ELV Directive into national legislation, according to Mr Fey. The differing approaches adopted by individual EU member states was creating 'a high degree of uncertainty' with regard to post-shredder technology investments since what was acceptable in one country or region was not necessarily approved in another. It was important to think of Europe as a whole, he suggested, since some EU member states were too small to justify a plant of their own.

Mr Fey's presentation focused specifically on shredder residue treatment using SiCon post-shredder technology. He noted that a commercial-scale VW/SiCon plant was in the final planning phase and could come on stream by next year. IEC Co-Chair Rolf Willeke of BDSV in Germany agreed with Mr Fey about the importance of post-shredder technology in meeting ELV Directive targets. However, he also expressed concern that national coverage would not be achieved by the time the directive's quotas became live in 2006. 'Our industry will have to decide what to do if post-shredder technology is not available to us,' he said. 'We need a transition period.'



MTB's Francis Sevilla (left) and Jean-Philippe Fusier are having a chat with BIR's Ute Fuchs.



The meeting of the International Environment Council (IEC). From left: IEC President Alvaro Rodrigo Martinez of Spain, BIR's Environmental & Technical Director Ross Bartley, Neil Marshall of the British Metals Recycling Association, U.K. and Stuart Cottam of Simsmetal, Australia.

Notifications required

On the subject of EU enlargement, BIR's Environmental & Technical Director Ross Bartley confirmed that notifications were required for exports of all materials designated as waste to the following five new member countries: Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Poland and Slovakia. And he also returned to the issue that had dominated proceedings at the previous IEC meeting in Vienna, namely the revision of EU waste shipment regulations and the risk of traders being 'written out of the market'. In Berlin, he explained that BIR had submitted to the EU separate definitions of the trader/dealer and broker, thereby giving recognition to their individual roles within a well-functioning market. 'We hope this is taken on board,' he commented.

At the conclusion of the meeting, IEC's Chairman Alvaro Rodriguez Martinez of Spain expressed the widespread fear that China would use environmental measures as a means of erecting 'commercial barriers'. Meng Jianbin, a Director within China's Metallurgical Council-CCPIT, responded by saying that he understood these concerns but insisted: 'We don't want to become the dustbin of the world.' □

China International Metal Recycling Forum 2005

In November 2003, the Department of International Cooperation & Consulting within China's Metallurgical Council-CCPIT held its first China International Metal Recycling Forum. This proved to be an instant success in that it attracted 400 delegates from China and more than 100 from overseas.

The next forum will take place on March 21-22 next year in Guangzhou, the city on the south coast formerly known as Canton, several hundred kilometres north of Hong Kong. 'The structure of the forum has been changed so as better to suit the needs and wishes of the participants,' explains Metal Recycling Forum Director Meng Jianbin. On the first day, Chinese government officials and customs authorities will explain developments in China's waste and environment legislation. Other sessions will cover topics such as ferrous and non-ferrous metal recycling, end-of-life vehicle recycling, ship-breaking, shredding, and technology and machinery. Speakers will come not only from China but also from other Asian countries, Europe and the U.S.

In tandem with the metals forum, an International Metals Fair will be staged at the Guangzhou Exhibition Center on March 23-26 and will comprise six different shows on manufacturing and recycling of metals. According to Project Manager Mrs Zhang Lingyue, last year's exhibition drew more than 6000 visitors from 26 countries. The show attracted exhibitors mainly from the metals industry such as Outokumpu, Ispat and ThyssenKrupp, but next year's event will focus more on metals recycling.

For more information on the China International Metal Recycling Forum 2005, contact Meng Jianbin at inco@mc-ccpit.com; and for the International Metals Fair, contact Mrs Zhang Lingyue at lyzhang@mc-ccpit.com

Meng Jianbin, Director the Department of International Cooperation & Consulting of China's Metallurgical Council-CCPIT (left) and Zhang Lingyue, Project Manager of the Metallurgical Council of China's Council for the Promotion of International Trade.



Guest speaker at the General Assembly was Dr Albert Rohan, former Secretary General of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Future BIR Meetings

2004

October 28-29 **LONDON**
Hilton Metropole Hotel

2005

May 23-25 **BARCELONA**
Princesa Sofia Intercontinental Hotel

October 24-25 **MILAN**
The Milan Marriott Hotel

2006

May 29-31 **BEIJING**
The China World Hotel
(to be confirmed)

October **BRUSSELS**
Sheraton Hotel & Towers