

# BIR AIMS TO SMOOTH SCRAP TRADE WITH CHINA

BY CHRISTOPHER CUNDY

■ **LONDON** — The Bureau of International Recycling has sent an official delegation to China to promote smoother trading conditions for international scrap merchants.

Director general Francis Veys, together with fellow BIR officials Marc Natan and David Lo, have visited representatives from an array of Chinese authorities who hold sway over scrap imports and exports. These included the State Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Ministry of Foreign Trade & Co-operation (Moftec).

The visit was prompted by the scrap

trading ban imposed earlier this year in China over fears of waste being shipped under the guise of secondary materials. The embargo was introduced without warning and caused confusion and disruption overseas.

The Chinese authorities prohibited the import and export of "group 5" waste — electrical and electronic goods that have reached the end of their life — as well as non-ferrous metal ashes and residues. Companies breaking the ban, which came into force on August 15, face fines and jail sentences.

The BIR delegation described the

dialogue as "open and fruitful". "Both parties exchanged constructive comments on current and future economic and legislative issues, particularly on Chinese import restrictions, quality control and harmonised specifications for scrap materials," said the BIR.

The BIR delegation also pushed for the renewal of a special agreement that allows BIR members to self-inspect secondary materials exported to China.

Chinese industry representatives will participate in the BIR's spring 2003 convention, and the BIR is looking to hold a 2006 convention in a Chinese city.