

# **BIR CONVENTION: BIR will expel members exporting hazardous waste, Veys says**

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Indonesia's customs authorities stepped up checks on imports earlier this year after toxic chemicals and other hazardous materials were found in a number of containers.

Due to these stringent checks, the country's mills have not been able to get containerised scrap released for use in their electric arc furnaces. The situation is pushing some mills to buy billet instead.

The BIR said on the first night of its world recycling convention and exhibition in Rome that if any member company is found to have exported hazardous waste, its membership will be rescinded.

Those implicated will also have their membership suspended while any investigation is undertaken, Veys added.

"Whether it's hazardous waste or non-hazardous waste, BIR will keep [the] membership [of any companies involved] on hold," Veys said. "After [this, the matter] will go to the committee and then, if they are found guilty, they will be expelled from the organisation."

Rome 30 May 2012 10:25

# **BIR CONVENTION: Further softening likely in European prices, Bird says**

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European ferrous scrap prices are likely to soften further in June as the continent continues to be affected by the eurozone crisis and the uncertainty that comes with this, EFR president and md of Van Dalen UK, Tom Bird said on Thursday May 31.

European ferrous scrap prices are likely to soften further in June as the continent continues to be affected by the eurozone crisis and the uncertainty that comes with this, EFR president and md of Van Dalen UK, Tom Bird said on Thursday May 31.

“It is fair to say at the moment that we are looking at some market uncertainty,” Bird told delegates at the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) conference in Rome.

The sentiment arising from the eurozone crisis is also playing a big part, he said.

“As mentioned a number of times in this [forum], sentiment is so important and the euro crisis and its resolution will play an important part,” he said.

Demand remains strong in the long term, he added.

“We should not forget that demand for scrap is increasing in the medium to long term. We have already seen increased demand from Turkey, with significantly more capacity to come online over the next couple of years,” he said.

“This can only be positive,” Bird concluded.

Rome 31 May 2012 16:58

## **BIR CONVENTION: Ukraine will need 4m tonnes more scrap after new investments**

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Ukraine will require an additional 4 million tpy of steel scrap because of new investment in the domestic steel sector, Andrey Moiseenko of Ukrmet told delegates at the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) convention in Rome on Thursday May 31.

Moiseenko, of the Ukrainian Assn of Ferrous Metallurgy Enterprises (Ukrmet), said the country has four investments under way or planned which will require this extra tonnage.

His list included Dniprostal’s (Interpipe) almost completed expansion, which will eventually consume 100,000 tonnes per month of scrap with a crude steel capacity of 1.2 million tpy.

It also included Donetskstal’s 1.5 million-tpy project to be completed by the end of next year, and Vorskla Steel’s 1.7 million-tpy crude steel project to be completed in 2014-15, which will mostly consume direct reduced iron.

The Euro Finance Group recently said it was planning to build an electric arc furnace in Belay Tserkov with a 850,000 tpy capacity, but this was put on hold during the financial crisis.

“All of this investment, if completed will require around 4 million tonnes of steel scrap annually, that is not available at [the moment],” Moiseenko said.

Rome 31 May 2012 18:05

## **BIR CONVENTION: MSC aware of 'negative perceptions', executive says**

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Mediterranean Shipping Co (MSC) is aware of the negative perceptions many recyclers have of the freight firm, the ceo of the company's Belgian operations, Marc Beerlandt, told delegates at the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) conference in Rome on Thursday May 31.

“I'm aware that many of you may see us as unpredictable and unreliable,” he said. “We are constantly mentioning a lack of equipment, of available containers, of damage to containers and changes to container freight rates.”

This is seen as a “bloody nuisance” to some in the scrap industry, he added.

In the past few months, MSC has been increasing freight rates on many west-east routes on the back of a shortage of available containers.

These increases, in tandem with the lack of available containers, have greatly affected the ferrous scrap trade from Europe and the UK to regular consumers such as India and countries in Southeast Asia.

Rome 31 May 2012 12:43

## **BIR CONVENTION: Ala Group sees containers up to 10t underweight in past year**

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The Ala Group has noted weight shortages in containers ranging from 200kg to 10 tonnes over the past year, director Bashar Ehsan told delegates at the Bureau of International Recycling World Recycling Convention & Exhibition in Rome on Thursday May 31.

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The United Arab Emirates company has found underweight shipments at various destination ports, Ehsan added.

The non-ferrous and ferrous scrap that the company is trading has been subject to various weight shortages over the past year, but these are not specific to one port or country, Ehsan told the International Trade Council panel.

“It is not happening at just one port of discharge. We are seeing these shortages happening everywhere,” he said.

A number of other panellists complained of similar circumstances, with one BIR member in the audience saying that 600 containers delivered into India which were supposed to contain heavy melting ferrous scrap were found to be empty on arrival.

Rome 31 May 2012 12:30

## **BIR CONVENTION: Ferrous scrap hedging 'too shallow', Sims chief says**

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Hedging in the ferrous scrap markets will take many years to develop, with what is now on offer being too “shallow”, William Schmiedel, president of global trade at Sims Metal Management, said on Thursday May 31 at the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) conference in Rome.

“What exists today is much too shallow. It is a pointless exercise [trying to hedge],” Schmiedel told a panel on the ferrous board of BIR.

“It will take several years to develop,” he added.

The same thing happened earlier in the aluminium market, he said, explaining that hedging on the steel and scrap markets will eventually become viable.

Rome 31 May 2012 18:15

# BIR CONVENTION: UK secondary metal market leaves for eastern Europe

June 01, 2012 - 03:52 GMT **Location:** Rome

**KEYWORDS:** [UK](#) , [scrap market](#) , [secondary metal](#) , [eastern Europe](#) , [Tom Martin](#) , [Anthony Douglas](#)

Scrap production is leaving the UK and heading for eastern Europe, according to Anthony Douglas, a commercial executive at metal merchant and trader Tom Martin and Co.

“Scrap prices are too high in the UK, and export is becoming more and more difficult,” Douglas told Metal Bulletin during the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) conference in Rome.

“There’s so much uncertainty, and it’s difficult to say when it will change.”

This has meant that much of the industry has migrated to countries such as Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia, he said.

“We would like to develop more in that area, trading from our Polish office. That’s where we see growth,” Douglas said.

“There’s cheaper labour there, and western European companies that we deal with in the UK are now moving manufacturing out there,” he added.

In the UK, manufacturing has been disappearing from the industrial landscape for some time, meaning levels of scrap metal have dwindled considerably.

Demand for scrap material is much lower in the UK than elsewhere, leading to a fundamental shift in the nature of the market.

“The demand isn’t there, and we’ve also got things like public sector losses and a lack of consumer confidence since going back into recession,” Douglas said.

“People aren’t churning out the volume anymore, which creates tightness. We see developing in eastern Europe as a way to mitigate that.”

UK manufacturing, and therefore supplies of scrap metal, is unlikely to pick up in the next 20 years, Douglas added.

The UK is becoming increasingly service, rather than production, orientated. Any reversal of the situation would require a major change not only in the UK, but in Europe, and indeed, worldwide.

“Labour, land, and energy are all cheaper [in eastern Europe]. I don’t think that situation will change,” Douglas said.

“There’s not going to be any less pressure on prices in the UK, and no downward pressure on wages.”

The market in Poland, for example, is purely based on spot prices, making it much less susceptible to shifts in primary aluminium prices on the London Metal Exchange.

"The LME doesn't really make a difference," Douglas said.

This situation could present Tom Martin, whose primary focus is secondary aluminium, with opportunities, he said, as the company already has relationships with clients who have moved to eastern Europe, or are planning to do so.

“We’ve got a good relationship with western European companies, especially in the UK, and increasingly, they’re asking us to follow them to eastern Europe to see if we can work with them out there,” Douglas said.

“This is where we see major development. The Polish scrap market is quite underdeveloped and difficult to penetrate, unless you’ve got somebody local. It’s early days, but the signs are good [for Tom Martin].”

## **BIR CONVENTION: Scrap metal theft causes \$1bn of losses in UK**

May 31, 2012 - 18:13 GMT **Location:** Rome

**KEYWORDS:** [Robert Voss](#) , [scrap metal](#) , [theft](#) , [fraud](#) , [BIR](#) , [UK](#)

Theft and fraud in the scrap metal industry caused £770 million (\$1.2 billion) of losses in the UK alone in 2011, Robert Voss, md of [Voss International](#), told Metal Bulletin.

“The impact is really pretty substantial. It’s been an endemic and growing problem for a long time,” Voss said on the sidelines of the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) conference in Rome.

“The small-scale theft is what makes the headlines – for example, the theft of statues and memorials – but the industry is really more the victim,” Voss, who is also the head of the BIR’s International Trade Council, said.

“It’s the big-scale stuff we’re talking about here, and it’s becoming more serious and more organised.”

It is much easier to commit fraud or to steal scrap metal on a large scale than to commit other kinds of major theft, he added.

“If a thief wants to steal \$100,000, he might go and rob a bank, but it’s easier to take copper scrap, for example. He can get rid of it much more easily,” Voss said.

“It’s an increasing problem and it’s only going to get bigger. We have to find a way to deal with it.”

The industry is faced with the possibility, however, that it may be impossible to eradicate the problem entirely.

“We’re never really going to be able to combat it – what we have to do is try to curtail it,” Voss said.

“We’re working together and exchanging information [with other organisations]. The more information is exchanged, the more people will become aware of it,” he added.

The BIR is prepared to publish specific details of criminal activity among its members once a conviction has been secured, Voss said.

The organisation has also said it will look into publishing details of fraudulent activity in broader terms, without naming names or making accusations, when allegations are made.

## **BIR CONVENTION: Tom Martin casts gaze to East Asia**

May 31, 2012 - 16:52 GMT **Location:** Rome

**KEYWORDS:** [BIR](#) , [aluminium](#) , [scrap aluminium aerospace](#) , [Tom Martin](#) , [Anthony Douglas](#) , [Far East](#)

Scrap metal merchant and trader Tom Martin and Co will increase its focus on East Asia, commercial executive Anthony Douglas told Metal Bulletin.

“Because of the European sovereign debt crisis, people don’t want to invest there, and people don’t want to go long on stocks. They’re keeping a tight rein on buying,” he said during the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) conference.

“It’s difficult to have any long-term visibility. We’re living week to week, and month to month.”

Trading remains difficult in Europe and in India, he said, owing to unfavourable foreign exchange conditions, but in countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea and China the situation is different.

“They’re the best markets for us. Our success is reliant on having access to markets globally, and most of our material is going to East Asia,” Douglas said.

“There’s longer-term growth in those countries, and it’s been so phenomenal, I’m sure they will continue to be the strongest markets for some time.”

The level of consumer demand has bolstered the scrap and secondary aluminium market in Asia considerably, he said.

While demand in the automotive sector is perhaps not proportionally the strongest on a global basis, the sheer number of people living in these countries is enough to sustain a robust export market.

“For us, it’s about trying to develop in these countries. If there’s good news, it’s that the dollar is strengthening against the pound and that’s helped these markets particularly,” Douglas said.

“There’s also a growing aerospace industry there in the developing economies in the east, and we specialise in aerospace scrap. In the long term, that’s going to be the major area for us to target,” he added.

But this is not to say that the company has cut ties with its clients in the UK. On the contrary, its links to the aerospace industry there remain strong, according to Douglas.

“It’s more long term for us, because the lead time for aluminium to be turned into a plane is so long,” he said. “There’s a constant volume coming through from aerospace factories.”

A further reason to look to exploit the greater levels of demand in East Asian markets, he added, is that Tom Martin does not have proprietary storage space, meaning it is unable to allow stock to build up.

“Because we don’t have the storage space, we have to sell right away, which creates a big squeeze if the market takes a downturn,” Douglas said.

“We can’t just build stocks and keep the cash. We’ve got to move it and we’ve got to move it at long prices, which can get difficult [in Europe].”

## **BIR CONVENTION – CASE STUDY: The growing scourge of scrap metal theft and fraud**

May 31, 2012 - 18:03 GMT **Location:** Rome

**KEYWORDS:** [BIR](#) , [copper](#) , [Pottengal Mukandan](#) , [convention](#) , [theft](#) , [fraud](#) , [Yolande Delmas](#)

The Bureau of International Recycling and its member organisations are facing what has been described as an unstoppable threat: fraud and theft from cargo containers.

At the BIR conference in Rome, Pottengal Mukandan, a senior director of the International Maritime Bureau, a department of the International Chamber of Commerce, presented a study



of a recent case of container fraud, affecting a shipment of secondary copper.

A ship known as *Yolande Delmas* was to transport the cargo from southern Africa to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, and from there to Antwerp.

When the *Yolande Delmas* came into Dar es Salaam, its paperwork showed its cargo was all present and correct.

However, when it reached Antwerp, it was discovered that the copper shipment was missing.

No one had paid much attention to a discrepancy in the number of containers on board the ship between the two ports – to stop the ship, search it and possibly send it back would have been too time consuming and much too costly.

“The receivers of this very valuable cargo alerted the authorities and found that the container had simply vanished,” Mukandan said.

“What had happened was much more mercenary than that, however. An employee of an agent in Dar es Salaam was pressured into changing some documents by the criminals.”

The result was that the cargo manifest for the *Yolande Delmas* showed that there was another container on board with the same serial number.

“The person at the agency has since been arrested and is in prison. What he had done was to give the container a new name in the documentation,” Mukandan said.

His cohorts were also caught, Mukandan said, and about 30% of the copper was later discovered in a warehouse in Rotterdam.

## **BIR CONVENTION: Scrap metal theft - how the industry can protect itself**

May 31, 2012 - 18:20 GMT **Location:** Rome

**KEYWORDS:** [Mark Beerlandt](#) , [MSC](#) , [scrap metal](#) , [theft](#) , [fraud](#) , [prevention](#)

Mark Beerlandt, ceo of Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) Belgium, sets out some of the ways in which the scrap and secondary material market can protect itself against fraud:

- Make sure trade partners are fully qualified and trustworthy before entering into agreements
- Limit the number of partners with whom agreements are made to limit risk
- Make use of as many products aimed at increasing visibility and security as possible, including “track and trace” systems

- Use electronic booking platforms provided by reputable shipping companies
- Ancillary companies – work to provide cheaper solutions for handling information to facilitate faster responses and new counter measures to prevent theft.

## **BIR CONVENTION: Inoxum's Terni mill could become Europe's most important stainless scrap buyer**

May 30, 2012 - 17:06 GMT **Location:** Rome

**KEYWORDS:** [Inoxum](#) , [Terni](#) , [stainless steel scrap](#) , [BIR convention](#) , [Sandro Giuliani](#) , [World Mirror](#) , [Outokumpu](#) , [AST](#)

Stainless steel scrap flows are likely to change with the creation of the joint venture between [Outokumpu](#) and [Inoxum](#), according to Sandro Giuliani, stainless steel and special alloys committee board member with the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR).

“An important new factor has emerged regarding prospects for the stainless steel industry [and therefore for scrap flows], namely the [ThyssenKrupp](#) [subsidiary] takeover by [Outokumpu](#),” he said in the BIR World Mirror report, presented on Wednesday May 30 at the group's convention in Rome.

“The new owners announced that production will be shifted from Krefeld [in Germany] to Terni [in Italy] and Tornio [in Finland]. Some effects can already be seen, with evidence of a production increase at Terni,” he added.

This production shift could mean that Inoxum's Acciai Speciali Terni (AST), which produces stainless flat products, could become a significant consumer of stainless scrap, he said.

“The trend should become stronger in the future, making AST the most important stainless steel scrap purchaser in Europe,” he explained.

He went further, saying that the move could make scrap exports from Italy even less common.

“Scrap exports from Italy will become even rarer whereas new scrap flows will be originated by areas geographically closer to our market,” Giuliani, who is also part of the [Cronimet Group](#), said.

## **BIR CONVENTION: BMRA urges EC not to restrict recycled metal exports**

May 30, 2012 - 16:58 GMT **Location:** Rome

**KEYWORDS:** [BMRA](#) , [European Commission](#) , [recycled metal](#) , [rare earths](#) , [exports](#) , [restrictions](#) , [Ian Hetherington](#)

The British Metal Recycling Association (BMRA) is working to prevent the European Commission from implementing restrictions on the export of recycled metals, Ian Hetherington, director general, said.

“Our work is on the positioning of recycled metals in the debate, and especially rare earths,” he said, on the sidelines of the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) conference in Rome.

“Around the world, we’re seeing protectionist attempts to introduce legislation banning exports of certain ores and metals,” he added.

The problem, according to Hetherington, is now increasingly present in Europe, as the EC comes under pressure to restrict the export of rare or scarce resources.

“We will resist those calls internationally and within the European federation, and also as a national association,” Hetherington said.

“We need to promote free trade. This is particularly true of the recycled metal market. We would love to sell all our scrap steel, for example, to the UK market, but they only use about 15 or 20% of it,” he added.

This is across all recycled metal grades, according to Hetherington, and demand in the UK outstrips production by a long way.

If restrictions were implemented, therefore, stocks would begin to build up in the country, and as a result levels of recycling could drop.

“This is dangerous talk, and to say things like rare earths should not be traded because they are scarce betrays ignorance,” Hetherington said.

“They’re only rare or scarce because prices are not yet at a level to make it worth extracting them from the ground.”

Any discussion of restrictive trade practices is counterproductive to the recycling industry, Hetherington said, and poses a “very real threat”.

“I think this is worldwide. Clearly, the UK government needs to be fully aware of the dangers of starting down this road,” he said.

“The UK is fourth largest scrap producer in the world and is a major exporter, because we don’t have the domestic demand to consume the scrap we produce.”

The association is also undertaking a major piece of work on the changing regulations for scrap metal shredders, Hetherington said.

“There will be new emissions legislation for shredders from 2015. We’ve commissioned a

study of all the UK shredders, along with our European counterparts,” Hetherington said.

“We’re leading a European piece of work to designate best practices in relation emissions, which could potentially be used by shredders. This is under the orbit of best available technology,” he added.

## **BIR CONVENTION: New scrap metal theft private member's bill to go before UK parliament**

May 30, 2012 - 16:37 GMT **Location:** Rome

**KEYWORDS:** [scrap metal](#) , [theft](#) , [UK](#) , [parliament](#) , [BMRA](#) , [Ian Hetherington](#) , [private member's bill](#) , [Richard Ottaway](#)

A new private member’s bill will be put forward in the UK parliament in June, proposing sweeping changes to legislation on the scrap metal trade, Ian Hetherington, director general of the British Metal Recycling Association (BMRA), told Metal Bulletin.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) conference in Rome, Hetherington stated that the new bill would replace a previous attempt to change legislation made by MP Graham Jones at the end of 2011.

“The government brought in an amendment to the LASPO [Legal Aid, Sentencing, and Punishment of Offenders] act banning the purchase of scrap metal for cash but we don’t have a date for implementation yet,” Hetherington said.

“We’re pressing to bring in additional legislation that will close off opportunities for illegal trade,” he added.

The bill was proposed by senior Conservative backbencher Richard Ottaway, who is also the chairman of the government’s foreign affairs select committee, and will receive its first reading in the House of Commons on June 20.

“It will look quite different to the previous one. We hope it will broaden the definition of scrap metal so that it covers some of the loopholes that existed before,” Hetherington said.

“We’re also saying the licencing system should produce a register that’s both national and transparent, so that the police and businesses can ascertain whether they’re dealing with legitimate traders.”

He added that the bill has seen broad support from the government and from the opposition, and that the association is confident of a relatively smooth passage between the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Following a [successful pilot scheme](#) in the northeast of England, which used photographic ID

as a means of verifying market participants' identity, the BMRA is also hoping the UK home office will adopt the practice nationally.

"This is a greater protection than just the prohibition of cash payment. We're not opposed to what the government has done on cash, but it has to be implemented in tandem with other measures," Hetherington said.

"We're confident this is a model that will work. It's required a lot more work from members, but it's had some significant success. It provides a more robust audit trail so that people can purchases back to the photo ID," he added.

The scheme, according to Hetherington, has resulted in a reduction in metal crime of between 50% and 60% in the four police forces involved in the programme in the northeast of England.

"We will be looking for something similar to be incorporated into the new bill," he said.

## **BIR CONVENTION: Europe must inspire public confidence to get back on track - Robert Voss**

May 30, 2012 - 17:21 GMT **Location:** Rome

**KEYWORDS:** [scrap metal](#) , [Voss International](#) , [Robert Voss](#) , [Europe](#) , [eurozone crisis](#) , [Greece](#)

The only way out of the eurozone crisis will be to inspire confidence in the public in the possibility of economic recovery, Robert Voss, md of scrap and secondary metal dealer [Voss International](#), told Metal Bulletin.

Much depends, he said, on whether Europe can rebuild confidence in retail and manufacturing, and to do this, a resolution much be reached quickly.

"It's got to go back to a grassroots level, to restart economies," Voss said.

"Our business will be able to react quickly – in the pendulum of the economy, we swing rapidly," he added.

There is, however, still a great deal of uncertainty within the scrap metal market and elsewhere, he said, on the sidelines of the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) conference in Rome.

Macroeconomic headwinds have played an important part in the turmoil witnessed within the secondary and scrap metal industry, and will also play a role in any move towards recovery.

“Everybody’s still got an eye on Greece. I don’t think they will leave the euro – there’s too much pressure on them not to,” he said.

“If they did leave, the whole world would be in for a terrible 12 to 24 months. If they stay, hopefully they will kick start and get going.”

This move forward will be largely down to the Greek people, he said, and whether they vote in a pro-bailout government.

“We heard this morning that 75% want to stay in the euro. The pro-euro side is gaining support,” Voss said.

“If they get the bailout, then the world will start ticking again.”

In terms of Voss International’s business, the company continues to perform well, Voss added.

“We’re expanding. We’ve taken on another trader and some new people in finance as well,” he said.

“We have a business in Kazakhstan, which is expanding as well, and we’ve settled into new larger offices. We’re ticking along quite nicely.”

Moreover, he is confident that the current market turmoil will not last forever.

“As far as the market is concerned, it’s tougher than it was and it’s more difficult to sell,” Voss said.

“It will come back, though. We’ve seen this several times before, and it doesn’t concern me,” he added.

## **BIR CONVENTION: Tough times ahead for Europe's secondary aluminium market**

May 30, 2012 - 17:35 GMT **Location:** Rome

**KEYWORDS:** [BIR](#) , [aluminium](#) , [secondary aluminium](#) , [Rome](#) , [Europe](#) , [producer](#)

The European secondary aluminium industry is facing a crisis as material shortages reign, and more and more companies are faced with stoppages and cutbacks.

“The situation is very tough for Europe. I’ve heard the European market is at the lowest [price level] in the world. Even the Chinese have higher prices,” an Italian producer told Metal Bulletin on the sidelines of the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) conference in Rome.

Europe continues to suffer from production overcapacity in secondary aluminium compared with other markets, against a backdrop of an ever-declining scrap supply.

“Some new capacity was installed in 2011, and so the market is unbalanced,” the producer said.

“At the level we’re at right now, I feel some companies are going to get into trouble soon. We’re selling so low that we need at least a €150-200 [\$187.87-250.49] price increase.”

There have been efforts, he added, to increase prices, but thus far, they have been unsuccessful.

Furthermore, it is almost impossible to make predictions on which direction the market will take in the coming months, as there are so many difficulties to face, the producer said.

“The big concern is still Greece. It seems everyone is waiting for the election to determine what’s going to happen on whether it will stay in the euro,” he said.

“There’s still a long way to go before we reach a solution. We need newspapers in Europe to continue talking about the situation, but they’ve only talked about the bad side [and not about solutions]. The mood is very down and this increases uncertainty,” he added.

Within the secondary aluminium industry, specifically, the biggest question now is over the sale price of material.

“Scrap is very tight, and the London Metal Exchange price seems to have reached a bottom,” the producer said.

“Now, the sale price depends on demand and on offers. Scrap supply is short because the economy is slowing down, and there is less generation of scrap. At the same time, companies want to keep their production up.”

This means stocks of aluminium ingots will rise, even as demand remains broadly the same in Europe.

“This creates an imbalance. We’re being squeezed from both sides. However, we will not sell at just any price,” the producer said.

This situation led to voluntary production stoppages in April for at least one company in Italy, and more may be on the cards.

Lower prices, furthermore, have meant some companies are not pushing sales as hard as they otherwise might, in order to keep from having a full book if and when prices rise again.

“They’re prepared to wait. It’s better to stop than to lose too much money. We’re sure it can’t continue like this,” the producer said.

“Some companies are getting into more and more trouble now because of their losses, however. They’re burning through money at the moment,” he added.

Scrap merchants, furthermore, are becoming more selective in selling material, and when companies lose credibility, this means it becomes even more difficult for them to pick up

material.

“It’s a big vicious circle. Some companies will have to stop so that they don’t end up in this situation.”

Primary aluminium prices, moreover, will continue to affect secondary prices, and in the last two months, the LME price has come down steadily.

“The price might increase but we don’t know when. It could recover 10% as easily as it did in January,” the producer said.

## **BIR CONVENTION: BMRA introduces metal recycling education to UK schools**

May 30, 2012 - 15:42 GMT **Location:** Rome

**KEYWORDS:** [BMRA](#) , [scrap metal](#) , [recycling](#) , [education](#) , [UK](#) , [schools](#) , [Ian Hetherington](#)

The British Metal Recycling Association (BMRA) has introduced an education programme in UK schools on the importance of metal recycling, director general Ian Hetherington told Metal Bulletin.

Aimed at 11-14-year-olds, the scheme provides a curriculum “highlighting the importance of metal in society”, Hetherington said on the sidelines of the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) conference in Rome.

“It’s called ‘Metals and Me’ and we’re recommending it to all schools. It’s something we’ve been working on at considerable cost as a means of promoting recycling of metal and the impact on the environment,” he told Metal Bulletin.

The programme has been sent out to about 5,000 schools across the UK so far, and the BMRA will continue to promote it over the next year to 18 months.