

Plastics

Italian decree repealed – but concerns remain

Deep and persistent concerns over uneven interpretation of regulations among the different EU member states formed the centerpiece of discussions at the BIR Plastics Committee meeting in Rome.

The BIR, along with other associations and interested parties, deserve praise for their contribution to the quick-fire withdrawal of an Italian decree which had seriously undermined exports of plastics and other

forms of scrap during the several weeks following its introduction in early April this year, according to Plastics Committee Chairman Surendra Borad of Belgium-based Gemini Corporation NV. The law stipulated that, at the point of

customs clearance, there must be a declaration from the destination country that it possessed a recycling system with standards similar to those of Europe. As a result, 'it became difficult if not impossible to export any kind of scrap out of Italy', said Mr Borad.

According to guest speaker Stefano Fiore, Sales Executive at Italian company Logistics Group Srl, current EU legislation on transboundary movements of waste 'is interpreted and applied in Italy differently from the other member countries'. And he added: 'Until the difference between waste for disposal and waste for recovery is clarified within the Italian mindset, there is very little possibility that this sector will come into line with the operations of other member countries.' Fellow guest speaker Alessandro Danesi, Managing Director of Stena Techno-

world in Italy, also highlighted frequent changes to regulation as one of the features of the domestic market. 'They are very difficult for us to follow,' he complained.

Sharp rather than sustainable

Mr Borad went on to contend that, to some extent, the sharp rather than sustainable increases in sea freight rates of late had undermined the credibility of shipping companies among traders in recyclables. In the same context, the report on the Dutch and German markets from Peter Daalder of Daly Plastics in the Netherlands stated

that calculation of shipping prices in US dollars made the impact of recent rate increases even more dramatic.

According to Gregory Cardot of Veolia Propreté, lower collection volumes in France could lead to increased 'tensions' on the market. □



Plastics Committee Chairman
Surendra Borad of Belgium-based
Gemini Corporation.

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