

World Council of Recycling Associations

New Global Recycling Foundation gives fresh impetus to promoting crucial role of recycling

The recycling industry remains one of the world's "best-kept secrets" and its story needs to be told to future generations in order to help them in the preservation of the planet. So said BIR World President Ranjit Singh Baxi at the latest meeting of the World Council of Recycling Associations (WCRA), at which he made major announcements surrounding Global Recycling Day.¹⁾

The second Global Recycling Day - to be held on March 18 2019 - will be themed "Recycling into the Future", he confirmed to delegates in London on October 6, and its focus will be on the impact that today's young people and future technologies can have on recycling. Young people will be specifically targeted by, for example, downloadable content for schools to celebrate the day as well as a football theme to harness the popularity of the game among the world's youth.

Delegates also listened to an update on the success of the inaugural Global Recycling

Day, which had surpassed expectations by reaching more than 13 million people and attracting 10.5 million impressions on social media. Interest remained strong, with five brands keen for further sponsorship/partnership discussions.

Also at the WCRA meeting, Mr Baxi announced the launch of the Global Recycling Foundation - a private organisation formed by BIR to build on the success of the first Global Recycling Day through promoting and supporting the industry in its mission to showcase the crucial role of recycling in conserving the planet's vital natural resources. Among the Founda-

tion's nine goals are the continued celebration of Global Recycling Day on March 18 each year and promotion of the prioritisation of recyclables as the world's "Seventh Resource".

Mr Baxi described the Foundation as "a vehicle for investment" which will seek and use funds from donors and partners across the globe to foster pro-recycling educational campaigns. Donations may be eligible for tax benefits and donors will be able to build their involvement into corporate and social responsibility programmes.

Brian Shine, Chair of the US Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, congratulated all those involved in the success of the first Global Recycling Day and expressed support for customisable messaging to fit individual markets. Messages of continued support also came from, among others, Salam Sharif and Nasser Aboura of the Bureau of Middle East Recycling, Sanjay Mehta of the Material Recycling Association of India, Susie Burrage of the British Metals Recycling Association and Jean-Philippe Carpentier of FEDEREC in France.

1) Recent BIR World Recycling Convention (Round-Table Sessions) in London (5-7 October 2018)

Tariffs "create more problems than they will solve"

Recent BIR World Recycling Convention Non-Ferrous Metals Division

"Tariffs are a very blunt instrument and can give a lot of unintended consequences," declared Edward Meir in his guest presentation to the latest meeting of the BIR Non-Ferrous Metals Division. Describing Washington's current trade policy as "dangerous and built on faulty assumptions", the Director of US-based Commodity Research Group told his London audience that tariffs "will create more problems than they will solve" such as through the "chilling" of business investment and the cancellation of projects.

In the recent round of tariff activity, Mr Meir added, "US scrap has been a big casualty". Looking ahead to 2019, Mr Meir predicted during the meeting, that alu-

minium prices would trade at between US\$ 1910 and US\$ 2380 per tonne, assuming a resolution of the Rusal issue. As for copper, he forecast a price range of US\$ 5600-7200 per tonne so long as there is

some form of "truce" in the current trade war.

In his review of world markets, Mogens Christensen of H.J. Hansen Recycling Industry Ltd in Denmark noted that the US/China dispute is damaging the trading of scrap into China. China's import restrictions and this on-going trade war with the USA have translated into more American aluminium scrap finding its way to Mexico's secondary smelters, Mr Christensen continued. Meanwhile, India's importers have been "hit hard" by the decline in the value of the rupee.

Prefacing a panel discussion on the topic of "Politics and recycling: a new era", the session's moderator Murat Bayram of European Metal Recycling Ltd said that rising protectionism has contributed to the "earthquake" currently rocking the scrap sector. He reiterated the view expressed by divisional President David Chiao of Uni-All Group Ltd that China will "very likely close its doors" to non-ferrous scrap imports by the end of 2020.

Michael Lion of Everwell Resources Ltd in China acknowledged the "extremely unpredictable" situation that currently prevails, with "too much scrap in the wrong places".

The secondary industry in the USA cannot cope with all of the material now available and some companies have been left with no choice but to move volumes for lower prices in order to maintain cash flow, Andy Wahl of TAV Holdings Inc. explained to delegates during the panel discussion.

Fellow panellist Dhawal Shah of Metco Marketing (India) PVT Ltd identified the automotive sector as his country's largest consumer of secondary materials, with its demand growing at some 10% per annum. However, he warned against regarding India as the natural beneficiary of the changes taking place in China.

According to Mr Bayram, the recycling industry "deserves praise for its contribution in reducing carbon emissions", hailing the BIR-led Global Recycling Day as "a good way to tell the story that recycling is

not an option but a necessity". However, the industry is currently experiencing "disruption" rather than the "functioning markets" that it needs in order to perform its valuable role.

E-Scrap Committee: E-scrap compliance costs much larger than margins

A study commissioned by the European Electronics Recyclers Association (EERA) has concluded that compliance requirements are substantial.

The research looked at the current e-scrap business model in Europe and focused specifically on operational costs, it was explained to the latest meeting of the BIR E-Scrap Committee by Federico Magalini, Managing Director of Sofies UK. It was found that, for example, avoiding some quality and service requirements - such as reporting to authorities/compliance schemes, waste characterisation and audits - could cut costs by around 20% in the case

of cooling & freezing equipment and CRTs. "The effect of avoided compliance costs is much larger than margins," he informed delegates.

Also at the meeting, which was chaired by Thomas Papageorgiou of Greece-based Anamet SA, it was reported that China's plastics import ban has led to significant volumes heading instead to countries such as Malaysia and Vietnam where infrastructures cannot cope with the increased volumes. Recyclers in these countries often employ the cheapest methods which result in a more significant environmental impact, according to Steve Wong, Executive President of the China Scrap Plastics Association. "The solution for the future," he said, "will be technology and recycling at source."

Surendra Borad Patawari of Gemini Corporation NV in Belgium informed the meeting that e-waste in India is expected to grow at an annual rate of 10% from 2017 to 2020.

Wasserkraft als Stütze der Stromversorgung in Gefahr

Strom aus Wasserkraft leistet traditionell vor allem in Bayern und Baden-Württemberg einen substantiellen Beitrag zur sicheren Versorgung mit regenerativ erzeugtem Strom rund um die Uhr. Die Bedeutung der Wasserkraft wächst, je mehr gesicherte Grundlastversorgung vom Netz genommen wird. In Bayern stieg daher 2017 der Anteil der Wasserkraft an der bayerischen Stromerzeugung auf rund 21 % und wird 2018 nach der Abschaltung des Kernkraftwerks Gundremmingen Block B zum 31.12.2017 auf rund 26 % steigen. Ebenso wichtig ist der Beitrag der Wasserkraft zur CO₂-Vermeidung und damit zum Klimaschutz.

Aktuell appellieren die bayerischen und baden-württembergischen Wasserkraftverbände an die Politik, der Leistungsfähigkeit der Wasserkraft und ihrem gesicherten Beitrag zur Energiewende mehr Wertschätzung entgegenzubringen, statt sie immer stärker zu reglementieren und als anscheinend nicht relevant für die Energiewende an den Rand zu drängen. Es gelte doch, alle verfügbaren regenerativen Energieerzeugungsarten zu nutzen und dabei zu einem harmonischen Ganzen aufeinander abzustimmen, damit die Energiewende ein Erfolg werde. Wasserkraftnutzung und Umweltschutz seien Partner, keine Gegensätze. Wasserkraftwerke

erzeugen zuverlässig und CO₂-frei Strom mit dem höchsten Wirkungsgrad aller Stromerzeugungsarten. Gleichzeitig ist die Wasserkraft grundlastfähig, schwarzstartfähig, rund um die Uhr verfügbar, seit langem erprobt, speicherbar und trägt mit ihrer regionalen Verwurzelung dezentral zur Versorgungssicherheit und damit zur wirtschaftlichen Stabilität in der Industrie bei. Darüber hinaus leistet sie einen wichtigen Beitrag zur Tourismusförderung, zum Hochwasserschutz, zur Flussbettstabilisierung und vor allem auch zur Gewässerreinigung. Die Verbände sind sich sicher, dass wer glaubwürdig für eine erfolgreiche Energiewende eintritt, an der Einbindung der vielen

tausend Wasserkraftwerke in Süddeutschland nicht vorbeikommt. Um das vorhandene Potential der Wasserkraft noch besser nutzen zu können, sei es unverzichtbar, den Wasserkraftwerksbetreibern den nötigen Investitionsspielraum zu lassen, um vorhandene Anlagen ökologisch zu modernisieren, wieder in Betrieb zu nehmen oder naturverträglich zu erweitern. Damit einhergehend lassen sich die Gewässerabschnitte ökologisch spürbar verbessern, wobei es dem Hang zu widerstehen gelte, das Kind mit dem Bade auszuschütten. Immer weiter steigende Umweltforderungen bedrohten die Investitionsbereitschaft, führten zur Unwirtschaftlichkeit und daraus folgend zur Stilllegung der Anlagen. Dann verlören sowohl die Natur als auch die Energiewende.

Die Verbände wollen zeigen, dass die Wasserkraftnutzung nicht die Ursache aller ökologischen Probleme an den Fließgewässern sei, sondern Teil der Lösung von Umweltproblemen, die durch die intensive menschliche Kultivierung der Lebensräume entlang der Gewässer im Laufe der Jahrhunderte entstanden sind. Das funktioniere allerdings nur, wenn man darüber mit dem Willen zum Konsens verhandelt und die Endlichkeit ökonomischer Ressourcen anerkennt. Die verfügbaren finanziellen Mittel müssten so eingesetzt werden, dass eine ganzheitliche Betrachtung zu einer zielgerichteten Verbesserung der Gewässer führt.