



Oslo's City Hall was the setting for BIR's Welcome Reception. Construction began in 1931 but its completion was delayed by World War II. The building was formally opened on May 15 1950.

Intro

BIR's Oslo conve of SARS and

Delegates to the latest BIR convention in Oslo had mixed feelings about the markets, depending on their particular recycling sector and on the region in which they operated. U.S. exporters cheered the strong Euro, unlike their Euro-zone counterparts. Another serious problem for world markets has been the emergence of the SARS epidemic, which has negatively affected industrial activity and demand.

By Manfred Beck



This year's BIR Spring Convention took place in the Radisson SAS Plaza Hotel in Oslo.

Some 450 delegates were greeted by a mixture of rain and sunshine at this year's BIR Spring Convention in Oslo. Last year's spring meeting in Monte-Carlo attracted more than 900 people and so, on the surface, this latest attendance figure may seem somewhat disappointing. However, there were several explanations: the limited amount of recycling trade with Scandinavia; the decline in the world economy; and the drop-off in trade with Asia and especially China, which continues to feel the adverse effects of the SARS outbreak.

Furthermore, Norway rightly has the reputation of being a very expensive country. The prices in bars and restaurants came as something of a shock to BIR delegates - having to pay around US\$ 9 for a beer and some US\$ 50 for a bottle of run-of-the-mill house wine simply outraged most people. Given its enormous income from taxes on alcohol and tobacco, it is no wonder that the Norwegian government does not have to worry about a budget deficit!

BIR heading for Beijing

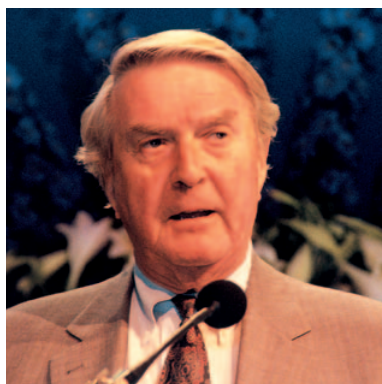
During BIR's General Assembly, Fernando Duranti of Leghe & Metalli International SRL of Milan was confirmed as the first Italian to become BIR President. He succeeds Barry Hunter of U.S.-based Hunter BenMet Assoc.

In confirming that he was 'excited' by the prospect of leading BIR, Mr Duranti identified as key presidential aims the increased participation of younger people in the organisation's activities and the develop-

ment of membership in an ever-widening number of countries. 'Most of our problems are the same and we have to combine our efforts to be successful,' he said.

A further 39 new members had joined BIR since the previous General Assembly in Monte-Carlo to take the organisation's total membership to 526, according to Robert Voss of the U.K., Chairman of BIR's Membership Committee. The fact that membership was drawn from 58 countries confirmed BIR as 'a truly international organisation', he stressed.

Serious consideration was being given to holding BIR's 2005 Spring Convention in the Chinese capital of Beijing in recognition of the country's growing importance to world markets, it was announced by Convention Committee Chairman Peter Mathews of Black Country Metals Ltd, U.K. The next three conventions would be held in Vienna in October



According Oslo's mayor Per Ditlev-Simonsen, the city is 'the European capital that cares most about clean water and air.'



Talking shredder technology, of course! From left to right: Wolfgang Haberer and August van der Beek of Metso Lindemann, Germany, and Jim Schwartz of Texas Shredder Inc., U.S.



ntion falls under the spell exchange rates



Jeanette Duttlinger of Switzerland-based ICM, organiser of annual international congresses on electronics, end-of-life vehicles and batteries; and Rolf Willeke, Managing Director of the German steel recycling association BDSV.



BIR's Director General Francis Veys.



Robert Voss, Chairman of BIR's Membership Committee.

2003, in Berlin in May 2004 and in London in October 2004, he confirmed.

International Environment Council

The Oslo meeting of BIR's International Environmental Council produced a stark warning from Chairman Alvaro Rodriguez Martinez of Spain regarding the debate within the OECD about whether to extend environmentally sound management (ESM) from hazardous to non-hazardous materials designated as 'waste'. Any such move would have severe financial implications, with third party verification costs to the recycling industry estimated at anything between Euro 7 and 15 million per annum in consultants' fees alone.

It was confirmed during the convention by BIR's Environmental & Technical Director Ross Bartley



Former BIR President Tony Bird (left) presented outgoing BIR President Barry Hunter with an award from the organisation's Advisory Council.

A new future for Henschel Recycling Technik

Thyssen Henschel Recycling, the renowned German manufacturer of hydraulic scrap shears, shredder plants, baler presses, grinder mills and pre-shredders was bought last month by German investor group Nord GB. In Oslo, Henschel's new Managing Director Johannes Krug explained the reasons for the take-over. 'Nord GB wants greater engagement in the European recycling markets,' he said. 'The company already operates 'Schwarze Pumpe', a processing company for secondary raw materials and it saw Henschel as an essential means of supplementing its market share.'

Of course, Henschel customers want to know if this latest development would lead to a change in company strategy. 'Let me first say that we will continue to build first-class large shears, shredders and pre-shredders,' Mr Krug stated. 'However, although Henschel is very well established in the heavy scrap market, it currently lacks shears for light scrap, the share of which will continue to grow in future. For that reason, we will also start building high-quality lighter shears. As for the manufacture of the machines, we will outsource more to certified suppliers of parts but we will continue to do the final assembly in our works at Kassel.'

Furthermore, Henschel will focus more on smaller- and medium-size scrap companies and build machines to customer specifications. 'This means that the company will have to be more flexible and decisive,' according to Mr Krug.

Henschel's main market will remain Western Europe. 'But Eastern Europe is also an important market for us,' he noted. 'There is so much scrap coming from that region that we will target those markets as well.'

Mr Krug concluded: 'Our philosophy will be to listen to our customers, understand their needs, offer them a first-class product at a competitive price and give them excellent service. As of today, Henschel Recycling Technik will become a lean, mean scrap shear and shredder selling machine.'



Johannes Krug, the new Managing Director of Henschel Recycling Technik.



that the world recycling body would strive to ward off this largely 'inappropriate' proposal.

A recent meeting of the Basel Convention in Geneva had underlined to Mr Rodriguez Martinez the importance of having representation within international fora. 'We have to be there to avoid a lot of things that could be done in our absence,' he explained. It was important, for example, to monitor the responses to a questionnaire on non-hazardous waste shipments since 'these could be used as a barrier to the free trade of raw materials', he commented.

The IEC meeting confirmed some recycling industry progress in the legislative arena.

Rolf Willeke of the German steel recycling organisation BDSV confirmed that his organisation was working on a non-hazardous classification for fluff and called for a Europe-wide approach to this issue. He also underlined the importance of developing methods for recycling fluff and of turning the End-of-Life Vehicle (ELV) directive into 'a daily reality'.

Also on a positive note, Ruggero Alocci of Italy explained that his national parliament was considering a law which would define as secondary raw material all those ferrous and non-ferrous metals conforming to international standards which were delivered direct to a mill or foundry. □



Alvaro Rodriguez Martinez of Spain, Chairman of BIR's International Environment Council.



BIR Treasurer Björn Voigt of Germany.

Fernando Duranti - BIR's new President

Fernando Duranti, owner and Managing Director of non-ferrous metals trading company Leghe & Metalli of Milan, Italy, began his professional career in the early 1960s in the raw materials division of his country's state steelmaker Italsider of Genoa. After several appointments in international trading companies both within Italy and the U.S., Mr Duranti founded his own company in 1981, specialising in non-ferrous metal scrap as well as stainless and ferro alloys, which were imported exclusively for Italy's steel and metals industries.

Since the beginning of the 1970s, Mr Duranti has been actively involved in the work of the Bureau of International Recycling as a member of its Non-Ferrous Division, of whose board he is currently a Vice-President. In 1982, he joined the Italian federation

Assofermet and, seven years ago, became a member of Eurometrec, the European metals trade and recycling federation. He went on to become President of Eurometrec in March 2001.



The new BIR President Fernando Duranti of Leghe & Metalli International, Italy, (centre) is congratulated by Peter Mathews, Chairman of the Convention Committee (right). In the background, Claude Beaumont of France and Recycling International's Subscription Manager Helga Fresen.

MiniSort launched at BIR Convention

Dutch company MaTech was a first-time exhibitor in Oslo and was also invited to give a presentation during BIR's aluminium recycling symposium. The company launched two new products during the trade exhibition: the MaTech-MiniSort from RMG Technologies and the Horizon 600 from Oxford Instruments, both U.K. companies.

The MiniSort represents a real novelty - it is the only OES hand-held metal analyser on the market which can analyse aluminium alloys as well as ferrous metal, copper and nickel. The Horizon 600 is another hand-held metal analyser, although this instrument utilises new XRF tube technology.

The new instruments certainly impressed metal recyclers at the BIR Convention. MaTech took seven orders from recycling companies in, among other European countries, Norway, Switzerland, Austria, France and Spain. Many other visitors from around the world requested further information on the new analysers.

'I am a happy man,' commented Marc van de Wijdeven, Managing Director of MaTech. 'We will follow up the sales leads very carefully and I am sure that more orders will come from that.'

For more information: www.matech.nl

Marc van de Wijdeven of MaTech demonstrates the new MiniSort on the head of Mitchell Smith of RMG Technologies. To the right is Jonathan Bryon of Oxford Instruments.

