

BIR to aid Ukrainian exporters

The Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) has pledged to help the Ukrainian scrap industry fight legislation aimed at restricting scrap exports from the country.

Francis Veys, BIR's director general, agreed that the organisation will assist the Ukrainian Metal Scrap Assn to lobby parliament in an effort to prevent Ukraine's president Leonid Kuchma from signing a law that will put a 30% duty on all scrap exports from January 1 2003. At the same time, the UMSA requested help in putting pressure on the prime minister to not sign a decree that could instantly stop all exports of scrap.

"There are 100,000 tonnes of scrap metal in port at this moment; yet they expect they can ban all exports tomorrow," Vadim Gurzhos, chief of the supervisory council of the UMSA, told MB. Gurzhos hoped that pressure from the BIR, and the fact that the legislation will breach WTO guidelines, will be sufficient to change the mind of the government.

Ukraine is a major exporter of steel scrap to Turkey and Asia. But exports from the Black Sea ports have fallen dramatically this year, under the threat of a total ban.