



Old meets new: metro station in Warsaw with in the background the Palace of Culture and Science.

BIR meets in Warsaw

Seeking protection from protectionism

The BIR world recycling organisation returned to Warsaw for the first time since 2007 for its latest Autumn Round-Table sessions. More than 730 delegates and 16 guest speakers converged on the Polish capital's Marriott Hotel for market and regulatory updates on ferrous and non-ferrous metals, stainless steel, electronic scrap, recovered paper, plastics, tyres and textiles. As ever, 'Recycling International' attended all of the open sessions and, in the following series of articles, reviews the key developments.



The BIR Autumn Round-Table sessions drew more than 730 delegates to the Polish capital's Marriott Hotel.

Amid all of the familiar discussions about how markets had fared in recent months and how well they were likely to perform in the near to medium term, the latest BIR World Convention in Warsaw also provided plenty that was brand new.

Significant studies were launched at both the Ferrous and Non-Ferrous Metals Round-Tables - both worthy additions to BIR's growing reputation as a 'Statistical Observatory' based on the

acquisition and dissemination of important recycling-related facts and figures. One of these new studies covers the implications for the steel scrap sector of the EU's Steel Action Plan while the latter assesses aluminium and copper scrap flows since the turn of the Millennium. The non-ferrous meeting also provided the stage for BIR to award a Certificate of Merit to Martin Abbott - who stepped down recently as the ceo of the London Metal Exchange - in recognition of his commitment to the recycling industry over the course of many years.

There was also a prestigious accolade for one of BIR's own stalwarts, with textiles recycler Klaus Löwer of Hans Löwer Recycling in Germany being granted the title of Honorary Member following his decision to retire.

New man at the helm

And for the first time in some three decades, the BIR team headed into one of its World Conventions without Francis Veys at the helm. This role now belonged to Alexandre Delacoux who

joined the world recycling organisation last year and became its new director general in September 2013. Speaking to journalists ahead of the Autumn Round-Tables in Warsaw, Delacoux said the opportunity to work alongside Veys for so many months had provided a 'very useful' insight into the recycling industry's issues and people. He also revealed some of the key points of the strategy designed for BIR which he had discussed with the world body's Advisory Council, including: membership retention through on-going service provision, including legislative back-up; the strengthening of the organisation's role as a 'Statistical Observatory'; and membership expansion in regions of the world where growth opportunities were perceived to exist, such as Latin America. On this final point, the next BIR World Convention will be held in Miami as part of a bid to maximise participation from Latin America.

Many consumers 'losing money'

BIR's World President Björn Grufman of Sweden-based Metallvärden AB told the same press gathering that business conditions remained 'difficult' not only for recyclers but also for their consumers, many of whom were 'losing money'. He also touched on the growing threat of protectionism - a theme which was to re-emerge time and again during the Round-Table sessions in Warsaw. Vested interests often persuaded governments that protectionist meas-



The IEC meeting's guest speaker Dr Joachim Wuttke from the German environment agency Umweltbundesamt said that voluntary certification schemes 'could play a role' in terms of implementation tools.



For the first time, general director Alexandre Delacoux headed the BIR team into one of its World Conventions.



BIR's environmental & technical director Ross Bartley confirmed that BIR had funded a study into the Environmentally Sound Management of secondary smelters around the world.

ures were appropriate but such moves could threaten vital exports of scrap, he argued. 'This is a huge problem for our industry now - all the tricks in the book are being used,' he said. 'Free and fair trade must be the best for the globe, must be the best for our industry and must be the best for the consumers.'

Establishing 'reality'

At the International Environment Council (IEC) meeting in Warsaw, BIR's environmental & technical director Ross Bartley confirmed that the world recycling organisation had been involved in all technical expert group meetings leading up to the finalisation of the UN-EP Basel Convention 'Framework for the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of hazardous waste and other waste', and had funded a study into the ESM of secondary smelters around the world. The aim of this research was to establish 'the current reality' and hopefully challenge suppositions that the ESM of permitted/authorised facilities varied greatly from one country to another. The study was likely to be published early in 2014, delegates were told.

The IEC meeting's guest speaker Dr Joachim Wuttke from German environmental strategy processes and perspectives developer Umweltbundesamt explained that the objective of the UN-EP Basel Convention's ESM framework was to: establish a common understanding of what ESM is; identify tools and strategies to support its implementation; describe the linkages between ESM and transboundary movements; and suggest a set of indicators to monitor progress. He said voluntary certification schemes 'could play a role' in terms of implementation tools, while indicators for verification of performance were being widely sought 'even if it is not easy to have good indicators'. □

Jansen Recycling's waffle-baking first at BIR event

A BIR Gold member, Jansen Recycling Group of the Netherlands was Platinum Sponsor of the world recycling body's latest Round-Tables. And at the company's booth in Warsaw's Marriott Hotel, a baker was employed to make traditional Gouda syrup waffles comprising two thin layers of baked batter with a caramel-like syrup filling in the middle. During the two days prior to the Convention, some 1400 waffles were baked and subsequently presented in tin cans as a gift to delegates. Throughout the event too, the baker continued to make fresh waffles, which were naturally in great demand.

The company was founded in the 1960s as ship-breaking company Heuvelman Staal by Henk Heuvelman, the grandfather of the current Jansen generation. The company later bought the Netherlands' first hydraulic scrap shear. And in 1980, Kees Jansen and his two brothers-in-law took over the company and grew it into a group which at that time boasted 16 sites in the Netherlands and other countries. After the sale of Heuvelman Staal, Jansen purchased Zethameta in Vlaardingen some 25 years ago. Together with his sons Klaas and Arie Kees, he made a fresh start in the scrap trade, with Harm Jansen joining them in 1992.



The team from Jansen Recycling, Platinum Sponsor of BIR's Autumn Round-Tables.

Today, Jansen Recycling Group is a fast-growing metal recycler with Rotterdam as its home port. Its yards in Dordrecht and Vlaardingen specialise in the processing of ferrous materials using shears with cutting forces of, respectively, 1000 tonnes and 1600 tonnes, the latter having the largest capacity in Western Europe. The company processes more than 500 000 tonnes of ferrous materials each year. Meanwhile, the company's Rotterdam branch specialises in non-ferrous materials, processing more than 125 000 tonnes per year.

In addition, Jansen Recycling processes and sells more than 60 000 tonnes of ferrous and non-ferrous incinerator scrap from incineration plants in Europe.

www.jansengroup.com



Having fun at the BIR Welcome Reception in the Royal Palace in Warsaw. From left to right: Martijn Reintjes, associate editor of Recycling International; Francis Tonleu of TSR Recycling in Koblenz, Germany; Joe Pickard, director of commodities of the U.S. recycling organisation ISRI; and Ian Martin, Recycling International's editorial consultant.