

New framework might lighten scrap regulations

The European Parliament has voted in favour of a new Waste Framework Directive proposing that scrap metal should enjoy end-of-waste status, which will ease the regulatory burden on exporters.

Under the current framework, the definition of scrap metal as waste has imposed shipping controls and trade barriers on scrap exporters.

Although the framework was aimed at limiting the shipping of waste for dumping in less-developed countries, it also caused scrap metal customers in non-OECD countries to cancel orders because of the increased administrative burden, particularly the instructions to publish all transaction data.

The new directive, which was welcomed by the British Metals Recycling Assn (BMRA) and the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR), will modernise the waste legislation and clarify definitions, BIR environmental and technical director Ross Bartley said.

"It does allow for some materials [including scrap metal] to be considered as end-of-waste, which would lower the regulatory and administrative burden and lower costs," Bartley said.

The decision to include scrap metal as end-of-waste material will be made by a European Parliamentary committee, but Bartley said the BIR is "optimistic" that a final decision will be made by the end of the year. The new framework is expected to be legalised by the end of the year.

BMRA director general Lindsay Millington said she was "really pleased" with the agreement.