

BIR is the international trade association of the recycling industries. Around 70 countries are represented through their national trade associations and individual companies which are involved in recycling. BIR comprises four commodity divisions: iron and steel, non ferrous metals, paper and textiles, and has committees dealing with stainless steel and special alloys, plastics and rubber. BIR's primary goals are to promote recycling and recyclability, thereby conserving natural resources, protecting the environment and facilitating free trade of secondary raw materials.

## **PRESS RELEASE**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brussels, 9th October 2009

## **BIR Autumn Round-Table Sessions**

Okura Hotel, Amsterdam (25) 26-27 October 2009

## Non-Ferrous Metals Division: Guest speakers from Banc of America SecuritiesMerrill Lynch and the Organisation of European Aluminium Refiners and Remelters

The plenary session of the BIR Non-Ferrous Metals Division on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at 9.30 hrs will hear presentations from two senior experts of the metals markets.

Michael Widmer leads the research coverage in metals markets at Banc of America Securities – Merrill Lynch. Mr Widmer has in-depth industry expertise and a thorough understanding of the metals markets. Prior to BAC-ML, he worked for BNP Paribas as Senior Metals Strategist and for Lehman Brothers as Head of Metals Research. He also held senior positions at Calyon Corporate and Investment Bank as well as Macquarie Bank.

The title of his speech will be: "Fiscal and monetary stimulus programmes have saved metals".

Second guest speaker Mr Günther Kirchner, Secretary General of the Organisation of European Aluminium Refiners and Remelters (OEA), will be giving an overview on the European aluminium markets. OEA is the international association of companies that deal with the recovery and recycling of aluminium. Members include producers of casting alloys (refiners) and of wrought alloys (remelters) if they predominantly use secondary raw materials for production. Furthermore, the aluminium recycling industry comprises processors of aluminium containing secondary raw materials, provided that they operate their plants on an industrial scale.

Mr Kirchner has been with the OEA for the last 25 years. He is also the head of the Verband der Aluminiumrecycling-Industrie (VAR), the German association that promotes the recovery and recycling of light metals.

The title of his speech will be "Aluminium Recycling in Europe – present and future challenges".