

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.

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BIR Autumn Round-Table Sessions Düsseldorf, 30-31 October 2008

Paper Division: **BIR 'Papyrus Award' for French company Emin Leydier**

Recent weeks have been "some of the most challenging in our lifetimes", the BIR Paper Division meeting in Düsseldorf was told by its President, Ranjit Baxi of J & H Sales International in the UK.

Prices have weakened sharply, trade has slowed dramatically, lines of credit have tightened and some buyers have been unable to "meet with their payment obligations", according to Mr Baxi. Taking leading recovered paper importer China as his example, he noted that the country's purchases had been weaker in the third quarter compared to the first half of 2008 and that the Asian giant's import growth is likely to be limited to around 6% for the year as a whole - "much less than what we have been seeing in the past". This deceleration appears likely to continue in 2009, he added.

The President of the US Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries' Paper Stock Industries chapter George Chen told delegates in his guest presentation that rising labour costs are making China's mill operators increasingly reluctant to sort poor-

quality imported recovered paper. Therefore, supplying a poor-quality product may well lead to rejections, he warned.

Fellow guest speaker Horst Menge, Raw Materials Co-Ordinator at Myllykoski Continental GmbH in Germany, underlined the quality demands of modern papermaking machines and called for closer, practical co-operation between mills and their recovered paper suppliers.

While market conditions offered little cheer, the mood in Düsseldorf was lifted by the first-ever award of the BIR “Papyrus” prize. The recipient was family-owned Emin Leydier which operates two paper mills in France and consumes some 800,000 tonnes of recovered paper per annum. The award was accepted by the company’s Christophe Leydier and Yves Herbaut, who underlined the firm’s conviction that recovered paper usage leads to a valuable reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr Baxi said Emin Leydier deserved this recognition for growing its recovered paper consumption and for promoting partnership with its suppliers. According to the Paper Division’s President, other criteria that would be considered in identifying future “Papyrus” prize winners include: a record of innovation in the use of recovered fibre; and exceptional leadership in social, quality and environmental management.

In her report on European Recovered Paper Association affairs, the organisation’s President Merja Helander of Paperinkeräys Oy in Finland welcomed a recent monitoring report which confirmed that the paper recycling rate in Europe reached 64.5% last year and that the industry is on track to meet its voluntary target of 66% by 2010. It is also “great news”, she added, that cellulose fibre has been exempted from the demands of the EU’s REACH chemical regulations and therefore falls outside of registration/pre-registration requirements.

Ms Helander also endorsed the voluntary European Recovered Paper Identification System launched by the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) in late October. The initiative enables recovered paper suppliers to register on a website (www.recoveredpaper-id.eu) for a unique supplier code that will then be added to their recovered paper bales.

On another positive note, it was revealed by BIR World President Dominique Maguin of France that Mr Baxi has recently been named “Asian of the Year” at a ceremony organised by “Asian Who’s Who International”, a publication about leading Asians in the UK.

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