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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Brussels, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

### **BIR strongly opposes Turkish export restrictions on copper scrap**

The Bureau of International Recycling has sent a letter of complaint to the association of mineral and metal exporters in Turkey, denouncing export restrictions for copper and copper alloy scrap which were imposed on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

This complaint was initiated by the Brussels-based non-ferrous metals association EUROMETAUX, which asked BIR for support.

“The unilateral decision of Turkey not to grant licences to their national exporters does not seem to have been published in any official decree; such a protectionist attitude must be condemned, particularly at a time when raw materials are urgently needed everywhere in the world” states BIR.

Turkey is a member of the World Trade Organisation and such restrictions are not acceptable unless they are justified for strategic reasons and negotiated with the WTO.

By imposing these restrictions on copper scrap exports, Turkey isolates itself from the international copper scrap market and gives its domestic industry exclusive access to this material.

BIR has recently set up an International Trade Council with the main objective of monitoring the international exchanges of scrap and recyclables to detect, and fight against, any trade barrier such as as duties, quota, bans etc.

EUROMETAUX has filed an official complaint with the EU Commission, expressing their serious concern on behalf of the European copper operators.

*For further information please contact:  
Elisabeth Christ  
BIR Communications Director  
Tel: + 32 2 627 57 70  
e-mail: [bir@bir.org](mailto:bir@bir.org)*