



**BIR**

Bureau of International  
Recycling

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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## **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.

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