

---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Brussels, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

### **Bureau of International Recycling welcomes European Parliament vote revising the Waste Framework Directive**

On behalf of its EU members, the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) welcomes the vote of the European Parliament in Strasbourg today, which endorses the compromise to revise the Waste Framework Directive reached by the Rapporteur Caroline Jackson with the Council of Ministers.

This modernisation of waste management in the EU in favour of a priority order of waste prevention, re-use and recycling will help with climate protection given that recycling in particular saves on greenhouse gas emissions in comparison with primary production. At the same time, recycling saves resources of both energy and materials.

“The Bureau of International Recycling had since the 1990s been promoting the need for a legal process to determine when waste ceases to be waste,” said Ross Bartley, Environmental and Technical Director of BIR. “Early waste management laws defined so easily what constituted waste. But now, to encourage higher standards of recycling and the marketing of better-quality recyclables, the European Parliament’s setting of conditions for ‘Waste to cease to be waste’ is much needed.”

The revision of the Waste Framework Directive brings much-needed legal clarity in particular to the definitions and distinctions used by the law. Higher standards are demanded for the technical and organisational requirements regarding collection, segregation and treatment of wastes. The revised law enables the wished-for “Recycling Society”, recognising the need for higher recovery and recycling quotas now and in the future, and the need for incentives to prevent waste. All the elements included help towards proper resource protection.

The Bureau of International Recycling strongly approves and encourages better regulation for recyclers around the globe. This revised EU law paves the way for resource efficiency and sustainable materials management.

*For further information please contact:  
Ross Bartley  
BIR Environmental and Technical Director  
Tel: + 32 2 627 57 70  
e-mail: [bir@bir.org](mailto:bir@bir.org)*

BIR  
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 24, B-1050 Brussels (Belgium)  
Tel: + 32 2 627 57 70 - Fax: + 32 2 627 57 73 - E-mail: [bir.sec@skynet.be](mailto:bir.sec@skynet.be) -  
<http://www.bir.org>