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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Brussels, 31 October 2007**

### **BIR Warsaw Round-Table Sessions**

***International Environment Council:***  
***Trade regulation for EU/non-OECD countries proves to be short-lived***

Commission Regulation 801/2007 covering EU trade in recyclables with non-OECD countries proved to be "short-lived" and is to be replaced by new regulations which should emerge either later this year or in early 2008, it was reported to the International Environment Council (IEC) meeting in Warsaw by BIR Environmental & Technical Director Ross Bartley.

Under regulations established in 1999, some 122 non-OECD countries responded to a questionnaire asking about desired controls on EU shipments of non-hazardous - or "green list" - wastes. When the same exercise was repeated in 2006, only 21 out of more than 160 non-OECD countries submitted a reply - some of which were inconsistent with previous responses. "The dialogue of EU Commission and non-OECD country missions was not good enough to set up a regulation properly," explained Mr Bartley. "One of the mistakes made was not to recognise the previous replies."

The IEC meeting also featured a guest presentation from Kees Wielenga of Belgium-based Ffact Management Consultants on the IMPEL initiative covering enforcement of EU shipment regulations. The aim of the project is to: promote co-operation and consistency of approach among EU member states' enforcement agencies; prevent illegal waste disposal in other countries, notably in the developing world; ensure waste is traded with companies operating in an environmentally-sound manner; and support the governments of developing countries which cannot controls imports

themselves. Ten EU member states are already actively involved in the initiative and many more are expected to participate in the near future.

IEC Chairman Alvaro Rodriguez Martinez of Energis SA in Spain underlined the importance of focusing limited enforcement resources on major environmental transgressions involving truly hazardous wastes.

Early inspection activities under the IMPEL banner had uncovered some worrying breaches of shipment regulations, according to Mr Wielenga. Concerns extend to non-hazardous materials and so it is not possible to concentrate enforcement efforts purely on hazardous wastes, he argued.

According to Magda Gosk, who works for Poland's Environment Protection Inspectorate and also chairs the IMPEL project, previous enforcement initiatives have revealed "really high levels of non-compliance". The aim of IMPEL is to focus on the "black sheep" while respecting the difference between administrative infringements and attempts to export illegal, environmentally-risky consignments.

Kinga Zgierska from the scrap chamber of commerce in Warsaw argued that transitional arrangements relating to Poland's entry into the EU are hampering imports of some vital secondary raw materials, mainly through delays in the issuing of authorisations. Ms Gosk responded by saying that the Polish government has introduced provisions to reduce the burden of these transitional measures.

During the meeting, Annex VII of the new EU waste shipment regulations was touched upon only briefly since the Non-Ferrous Metals Division had decided to dedicate its plenary session to an in-depth analysis of this issue.

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