

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Brussels, 30 October 2007**

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

### **Ferrous Division & Shredder Committee:**

- ***India abandons registration scheme proposal***
- ***Introduction of new sorting technology***

Debate at last year's BIR Autumn Convention was dominated by India's plans to introduce a registration scheme for overseas suppliers of scrap similar to that implemented under AQSIQ in China. The proposal had been a response to explosions and loss of life linked to munitions in consignments of imported scrap coming from war zones into India.

In Warsaw, however, Ikbal Nathani of India's Nathani Group of Companies was delighted to reveal that, "due to the efforts of BIR and ISRI" over many meetings with the Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the country's government had taken the "bold and courageous" decision to abandon the proposal altogether such that scrap can be freely exported to India. But Mr Nathani insisted: "Exporters should make sure we don't repeat the mistakes of the past. We should self-regulate to ensure no explosive materials are shipped."

Also sounding an upbeat note, guest speaker Prof. Dr Dieter Ameling described steelmaking raw materials as "short and expensive" before telling scrap processors that, now and in the long term, "every kilogramme you can recover worldwide will be useful for steel production". In a speech emphasising steel's sustainability and resource efficiency credentials, the President of the German steel industry association Wirtschaftvereinigung Stahl noted that world use of steel scrap had leapt from 462 million tonnes in 2005 to approximately 500 million tonnes last year.

Less positively, Ferrous Division President Christian Rubach of Interseroh Hansa Recycling GmbH in Germany lamented that revised EU Waste Shipment Regulations introduced in July this year have disrupted the scrap market and are threatening

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confidentiality via the requirement for an Annex VII shipment tracking document containing detailed information about, for example, suppliers. He added that the European Commission “understands our problems and sees that (the regulations) need modification”.

In the world market review section of the meeting, Vice President of the BIR Ferrous Division Anton Van Genuchten of TSR GmbH & Co. KG of Germany estimated that EU-27 steelworks had consumed approximately 60 million tonnes of scrap in the first half of 2007, or 5% more than in the same period last year. EU scrap exports had advanced 6.8% to 5.5 million tonnes, with Turkey strengthening its position as the leading buyer by taking 2.96 million tonnes (+24.6% compared to January-June 2006). Meanwhile, EU imports had dropped 22.8% to 2.9 million tonnes.

According to Roman Genkel of MAIR in Russia, domestic steelmakers will purchase almost 24 million tonnes of scrap in 2007 - 20% more than in 2006. With continuing investment in the Russian steel sector, the country's scrap consumption is expected to reach 27 million tonnes in 2008. Owing to the increase in domestic purchases, Russian scrap exports are thought likely to fall 23% this year to 9.5 million tonnes. Meanwhile, scrap collection in the Ukraine “has already reached its maximum level”, ventured Mr Genkel. “If Ukraine's steel mills increase their consumption, they will have to buy this additional cargo in Russia or Kazakhstan.”

In a report on the US market delivered by Ferrous Division Vice President Jeremy Sutcliffe of Sims Group, it was suggested that domestic steel production could reach a “pretty strong” 111 million tonnes in 2007.

The meeting in Warsaw also featured an outline of the Polish steel and scrap market from Krzysztof Krogulec of TOM. He revealed that electric arc furnaces absorb approaching three quarters of the scrap consumed within the domestic steel industry, or 2.975 million tonnes in the first seven months of 2007. Poland is expected to export just over 1 million tonnes of ferrous scrap this year, with Germany its leading customer.

The centrepiece of the subsequent BIR Shredder Committee meeting was a presentation from Rick Comtois of Innov-X Systems BV in the Netherlands covering the development of a sensor-based sorter with the aim of removing 90% of free copper from shredder downstream material. He suggested even higher recovery rates are possible if the equipment is run more slowly.

Providing feedback on the most recent meeting of the European Shredder Group, Anthony Bird of the UK-based Bird Group of Companies alluded to a continuing reduction in landfill disposal options in a EU-27 region which now comprises more than 270 shredders. He also mentioned the proposed extension of the Integrated Pollution Prevention & Control (IPPC) Directive, with its prescriptive Best Available Technology, to shredder plants and large scrap yards.

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