



**BIR**

Bureau of International  
Recycling

BIR is the international trade association of the recycling industries. Around 60 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**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Brussels, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

### **BIR Autumn Round-Table Sessions (29) 30-31 October 2006 Brussels, Sheraton Hotel**

#### ***Plastics Committee:***

#### **“Containers at war?”**

#### **A highly topical presentation - not only for plastics recycler**

Had containers not existed, global trade would never have been possible in the volumes encountered today. But the exploding container transport has some strange consequences for trade and trade related environments.

The size of new vessels has an impact on the cost price of ‘trunking’ (=long distance haulage). In turn that should influence the cost of transport itself. At the same time the number and carrying capacity of container ships coming on stream is not in line with the offer of cargo volumes. The new very large ships cannot enter in all the ports where they used to call. As a result volumes handled in the ports where they do call, will increase and time in port may be the next hurdle to take in order to respond to the ever more stringent demands of ‘Just Too Late’ deliveries.

Will this alter transport routes ? Will ‘carrier haulage’ keep on rising? Or will ‘merchant haulage’ become more and more important? Will a ‘container war’ be the result ?

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These and many more questions will be addressed at the BIR Plastics Committee Round-Table that will take place on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> October, at 17.30 hrs in the framework of the BIR Autumn Convention.

The recently appointed Chairman of the BIR Plastics Committee, Mr Surendra Borad, has secured the participation of an internationally experienced specialist of transports, Mr Honoré C. Paelinck, Managing Director of the consulting firm Port & Transport Consulting, who looks back at a career of more than 40 years in shipping business.

Amongst others, Mr. Paelinck developed and organised a combined container and steel terminal in the port of Antwerp, was Chairman Managing Director of the national transport organisation of the then Democratic Republic of Congo and subsequently ran the Belgian National Railways.

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