



**BIR**

Bureau of International Recycling

BIR is the international trade association of the recycling industries. More than 50 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, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2005**

# **BIR World Recycling Convention & Exhibition Barcelona, 23-25 May 2005**

## ***General Assembly:***

### **BIR's President to serve a second term**

Fernando Duranti of Leghe & Metalli International of Milan, the first Italian to become BIR President, has been elected to serve a second term.

On Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> May, he told BIR's General Assembly that his objectives for the next two years included expanding participation in the Young Traders Group - which Mr Duranti described as 'the future of BIR' - as well as its range of activities. Mr Duranti also spoke of his desire to: increase contact and information exchange between the various BIR member associations around the world; build BIR membership in South America; and pursue the possibility of giving Division status within BIR to the Plastics and Stainless Steel & Special Alloys Committees.

Michael Lion, Chairman of the BIR Membership Committee, confirmed that BIR membership now extended to 60 countries, including 42 national associations and 547 company members. A total of 78 members had joined the organisation during the year - a figure Mr Lion described as 'extraordinary'. BIR Treasurer Tony Bird OBE also hailed a 'very satisfactory' 2004 for the organisation in terms of its financial standing. In his introductory speech to the General Assembly, Mr Duranti had earlier reflected on the implementation of the AQSIQ licensing scheme in China and noted that 'a new period of applications for new- and latecomers ... will most probably start again in July of this year'. BIR's World President also criticised authorities for failing to recognise the environmental benefits delivered by the recycling industry and for dismissing scrap as 'waste'.

As part of a series of brief divisional reviews, Non-Ferrous Division President Marc Natan rejected export restrictions or bans on recycled products 'since protectionist

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measures have a negative impact on supply and demand, and represent short-term attempts to solve problems'. Colin Iles, newly-installed as President of BIR's Ferrous Division, pointed out that ferrous scrap prices had fallen in recent times despite the fact that world steel production had increased 6.5% year on year.

One of the highlights of the General Assembly in Barcelona was a special address by the Hon. Sr Salvador Mila, Catalonia's Minister for Housing and the Environment. He emphasised not only the importance of having outlets for recycled materials, but also the need for the recycling industry to supply materials of suitable quality and in sufficient volume.

Another special moment saw the award of a BIR Gold Medal on behalf of the Paper Division to Darren Pillai, General Manager of the Mama She's Waste Recyclers initiative in South Africa. His organisation, which employs over 1000 full- and part-time staff, uses recycling as a means of enhancing human dignity and reducing social marginalisation. Mr Pillai commented: 'I accept the award on behalf of all my employees. It's the people who make the organisation.'

It was confirmed by Peter Mathews CMG, Chairman of BIR's Convention Committee, that the Barcelona event had attracted a record number of more than 900 delegates (plus 200 accompanying persons) from 54 countries. The next Spring Convention, to be held in the Chinese capital Beijing, would represent 'a real shop window for BIR', he added.

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