



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.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brussels, 30th May 2005

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

Shredder Committee:

Shredders grow larger - but so does the legislative pressure

'The age of the big shredder is upon us,' according to Jim Schwartz of US-based Texas Shredder Inc. Addressing the BIR Shredder Committee meeting on Monday, 23rd May, he pointed out that many of the shredders installed over the last year or so have been of 6000 HP or above. In the UK, for example, European Metal Recycling Ltd had started up a 10,000 HP shredder in Liverpool, while an 8000 HP machine had been unveiled by the Sims Group in Newport. The meeting also learned that Mr Schwartz's own company had supplied an 8000 HP machine to Poland and that this was scheduled to begin production in the autumn.

Developments in the world shredder market were running in parallel with legislative pressure, according to the Shredder Division's Chairman, Jens Hempel-Hansen of H.J. Hansen Recycling Industry, Denmark. Prohibiting the landfilling of shredder residue could slow down development work aimed at finding solutions for this material, he argued. European Shredder Group (ESG) Chairman Tony Bird OBE confirmed that eight EU countries had indicated their intention to ban the landfilling of automotive shredder residue at some point over the next five years. 'But if there is no practical alternative, what will happen to the shredder waste?' he asked. Many of ESG's member companies believed EU recovery targets could be achieved if the shredder waste stream were processed to remove non-combustibles and then incinerated to provide energy, added Mr Bird.

On a distinctly positive note, Robin Wiener of the US Institute of Scrap Recycling

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 - <http://www.bir.org>

Industries (ISRI) confirmed that, in April, the state of Arkansas had passed the ISRI-sponsored Mercury Switch Removal Act which requires manufacturers to report on steps taken to design vehicles and their components for recycling. This represents the first piece of legislation containing 'Design for Recycling' language to pass a US legislature and become law.

The Shredder Committee meeting in Barcelona also featured a presentation on the implementation in Spain of the agreement covering the recovery and recycling of end-of-life vehicles (ELVs). Juan Antonio del Moral, President of the Spanish association for environmental ELV treatment SIGRAUTO, argued that EU recovery targets set for the year 2015 could be achieved only through post-shredder technologies such that all non-reusable components were left in the vehicles. 'Dismantling is not economic,' he insisted.

ends

*For further information please contact:
Elisabeth Christ
BIR Communications Director
Tel: + 32 2 627 57 70
e-mail: 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 - <http://www.bir.org>