



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

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EU Duties on US imports suspended

The world recycling federation BIR informs its members that EU customs duties on imports of certain products (amongst others iron and steel scrap, aluminium scrap, worn clothing and rags) from the United States have been suspended as of 1st January 2005, following a Council Regulation adopted on 31st January 2005. Trade sanctions were imposed on the USA in reply to a US legislation allowing foreign sales corporations (FSCs) to benefit from export subsidies amounting to more than 4 billion dollars per year since 2000.

The duties will be suspended until 1st January 2006 or 60 days after confirmation by the World Trade Organisation that the FSC successor legislation, the American Jobs Creation act, is also not compatible with WTO rules.

The FSCs were ruled against by the World Trade Organisation in 2000 as a direct subsidy to exports. In May 2003, the EU was authorised by the WTO Dispute Settlement Body to impose countermeasures of up to a level of 4 billion dollars in the form of additional duties of imports of certain products from the United States.

The new EU regulation aims at encouraging the United States to comply fully with WTO rules and remove the remaining trade distortion created by subsidies granted since the adoption of the FSC Act.

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