



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, 18th January 2005

BIR questions new Italian regulation on scrap imports

BIR is somewhat puzzled by a new regulation in Italy, which, according to the Italian association Assofermet, enables ferrous and non ferrous scrap operators to ship their materials into Italy as secondary raw materials and not as waste, provided they are registered on a special list on the Italian national register of waste management companies.

The registration requires that the foreign company apply in writing, together with a compliance certificate of the competent authority of the respective country, which must confirm that the exporting company has indeed processed that waste material in accordance with the Italian technical rules in force for the production of secondary raw materials.

It is however very doubtful that national authorities in foreign countries would be able to provide such a certificate, simply because they are probably

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>

completely unaware of the Italian regulations or because they refuse to abide by another country's rules.

BIR also questions the fact that the regulation only covers ferrous and non ferrous scrap and completely ignores other recyclables.

Assofermet is currently addressing their competent national authority with further legal and technical questions on the decree.

You can find a copy of the circular issued by Assofermet as well as an unconfirmed summary translation into English on the BIR website www.bir.org.

*For further information please contact:
Elisabeth Christ
BIR Communications Director
Tel: + 32 2 627 57 78
e-mail: info@bir.org*