



**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, 7th June 2004**

### ***World Recycling Convention Berlin 24-26 May 2004***

### **International Environment Council: ELV Directive and Waste Shipment Regulations on the agenda**

Manufacturers and recyclers needed to develop their mutual understanding since the products of today would become the recycling industry feed of tomorrow, the International Environment Council (IEC) meeting in Berlin was told by its Chairman, Alvaro Rodriguez Martinez of Lajo y Rodriguez SA in Spain.

His comment prefaced a presentation by the ELV Director of General Motors Europe (GME) Willi Fey, in which he outlined his company's position on the recycling of end-of-life vehicles. Noting that the EU's ELV Directive demanded the removal of heavy metals from vehicles as well as the organisation of take-back systems, he believed the legislation's reuse and recycling sub-quotas should be removed in favour of pursuing the most appropriate recovery route. Systems for monitoring recovery rates should be made 'lean and simple', he added.

Differing approaches within EU member states to the transposition of the directive were creating a high degree of investment uncertainty since treatment technologies that were acceptable in one country or region would not necessarily gain approval in

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another. 'It is essential that decisions on technology are based on market demands and political acceptance,' he underlined.

Mr Fey's presentation focused specifically on the VW/SiCon initiative to build a commercial-scale plant capable of handling around a third of Germany's post-shredder arisings. This would be based on the principle of finding markets for the recovered fractions in order to maximise economies and recovery rates.

IEC Co-Chair Rolf Willeke of BDSV in Germany agreed with Mr Fey about the importance of post-shredder technology in meeting ELV Directive targets. However, he also expressed concern that national coverage would not be achieved by the time the directive's quotas became live in 2006. 'Our industry will have to decide what to do if post-shredder technology is not available to us,' he said. 'We need a transition period.'

In his customary round-up of latest international developments affecting the recycling industry, BIR's Environmental & Technical Director Ross Bartley returned to the issue that had dominated proceedings at the previous convention in Vienna, namely the revision of EU waste shipment regulations and the risk of traders being 'written out of the market'. In Berlin, he explained that BIR had submitted separate definitions of the trader/dealer and broker, thereby giving recognition to their individual roles within a well-functioning market. 'We hope this is taken on board,' he commented.

Mr Bartley went on to note that although the OECD Recommendation on Environmentally Sound Management with its core performance elements was not yet adopted by the OECD, it was already being used by national governments (for example in the US-EPA 'Plug-In to eCycling' Guidelines for Materials Management of May 2004).

On the subject of EU enlargement, Mr Bartley pointed out that notifications were required for exports of all materials designated as waste to the following five new member countries: Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Poland and Slovakia.

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