



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

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Shredder Committee: ELV Directive not homogeneous

The BIR Shredder Committee meeting learned that implementation of the EU's End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) Directive was 'not homogeneous'. Timetables and targets differed, some systems were funded whereas others were not, and variations existed between technical requirements, according to BIR's Environmental & Technical Director Ross Bartley. From countries where national ELV legislation was in place, there had been complaints about lack of enforcement and about the data gathering burden, he said in his report on the recent activities of the European Shredder Group.

Chairing the meeting, Anthony Bird OBE of the UK-based Bird Group of Companies said that the shredder industry was 'very concerned' about the ELV legislation and argued that the producer should be responsible for the estimated € 150 cost of depolluting each vehicle. He identified the 'tremendous pressure' placed on the recycling industry by the automotive sector to 'do this work for nothing'.

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Mr Bird reported a world shredder population of around 756 compared to just over 700 in the year 2000. He also spoke of the 'urgent' need for BIR to collate details of the locations of specialised shredders for processing 'brown' and 'grey' goods in order to 'promote these new processes and processors to governments'.

The guest presentation at the Shredder Committee meeting in Berlin dealt with some of the issues surrounding use of automotive shredder residues (ASR) as a reducing agent in blast furnaces. Dr Peter Schmöle, Manager of Crude Iron Production at ThyssenKrupp Stahl AG in Germany, suggested that a blast furnace could consume up to 60,000 tonnes per annum of processed ASR.

'Processed residues can be recycled in a way that makes sense both from an ecological and an economic point of view,' he concluded.

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