



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

**BIR Autumn Round-Table Sessions
(26) 27-28 October 2003
Vienna, Austria
InterContinental Hotel**

Joint Workshop

“Prevention of Radioactive Contamination in Scrap Shredder Operations”

The BIR International Environment Council and the Shredder Committee have jointly organised a Workshop on Prevention of Radioactive Contamination in Scrap Shredder Operations, an item that has been highly topical in recent months. The workshop will take place on Tuesday, 28th October at 14.00 hrs in the InterContinental Hotel in Vienna.

This workshop will highlight recent incidents, their consequences for the scrap operations concerned, as well as possible solutions which, when implemented, can be a guarantee for increased security for the recycling companies.

The Chairman of the International Environment Council, **Mr Alvaro Rodriguez Martinez of Lajo & Rodriguez** (Spain) will reinforce that it is vital to take measures

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for the protection of scrap yards against the risk of radiological contamination due to orphan sources in scrap. Mr Rodriguez will show the example of a specific case study where such an incident has been documented with film and photo material.

Subsequently, Mr **Paul Grothaus, Member of the Regional Board of Aon Jauch & Hübener Insurance Brokers** (Germany) will be giving a guest presentation on *“Possibilities and Limits of Insurance regarding explosion risks and radiation risks”*. Aon Jauch & Hübener is the leading Insurance and Reinsurance broker in Germany specialising in risk analysis and counselling, insurance brokerage for all branches and company sizes, reinsurance, company pension and gratification schemes as well as private prevention management.

A subsequent panel discussion will tackle questions such as: Are our shredders sufficiently protected to stop entry of a radioactive source? Are our staff skilled enough to prevent a “radiological incident”? Are we insured against the likely damages and costs from contamination of shredders?

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