

BIR AT A GLANCE ...

- ◆ the sole international recycling federation
- ◆ founded in **1948**
- ◆ represented in **70** countries
- ◆ about **800** international members, of which
 - **35** national recycling federations
 - some **760** individual companies
- ◆ a diversified commodity structure:
 - **4** commodity divisions: ferrous metals, non-ferrous metals, paper, textiles
 - **4** committees for stainless steel & special alloys, plastics, tyres/rubber and e-scrap
- ◆ **2** World Recycling Conventions per year
- ◆ an interactive website with online membership directory
- ◆ a regular information service with commodity world mirrors, newsletters and newsflash e-mails.



BIR - REPRESENTING THE FUTURE LEADING RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIERS

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 **BIR** - Your gateway
to the international
recycling business!





INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

About 800 companies and national federations from 70 countries are affiliated to BIR. Together they offer an international forum for industrial exchange and business contacts. They provide their expertise to other industrial sectors and political groups to promote recycling.



BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

As a trade organisation, BIR offers its members the opportunity to do business together, to learn the latest market developments, to know the best available recycling technologies and to be informed on the international legislative context. Twice a year, BIR organises international recycling conventions, which each time take place in a different country or part of the world, and which are attended by between 800 and 1200 delegates from the 70 BIR members countries.



INFORMATION SERVICES

BIR keeps its members informed of all legal, commercial and technical trends in the recycling sector. It maintains close contact with major supranational bodies such as the European Union, the OECD, ICC, UNCTAD, UNEP, Customs Cooperation Council and CEN, and develops public awareness of the economic and environmental contributions of its members.



LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Founded in 1948 on the eve of the creation of the Benelux, BIR took on the mission of attempting to secure a change of any regulation (duties, quotas, etc.), which unnecessarily hinders international trade in secondary raw materials. Over the years BIR expanded its scope of action as a result of environmental legislation. BIR's primary goals are to promote materials recycling and recyclability, thereby conserving natural resources, protecting the environment and facilitating free trade of recyclables in an environmentally sound manner. BIR's action of informing and shaping the views of decision and opinion-makers has been stepped up considerably during the past few years.

As a result, waste management legislation now makes a distinction between waste intended for recovery and waste intended for disposal. Yet, 'secondary materials', i.e. all materials recovered by our industry and then prepared and processed according to strict specifications for conversion into new products, are not clearly defined, which jeopardises the free flow of secondary materials between countries.

BIR - Your gateway to the international recycling business!

The Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) was founded in 1948 and is the international trade federation representing the world's recycling industry, covering in particular ferrous and non-ferrous metals, stainless steel & special alloys, paper, textiles, plastics, tyres/rubber and e-scrap.



WHAT does BIR do?

- ◆ promote free trade of secondary raw materials and the increased use of recycled materials throughout the world, thus contributing to environmental protection;
- ◆ develop public awareness of the economic and environmental contributions of its members in liaison with the United Nations, OECD, European Union and other national and supranational bodies;
- ◆ provide its members with a worldwide network of business contacts;
- ◆ build a unique forum for the exchange of commercial, technical, economic and environmental information relating to recycling;
- ◆ offer professional expertise, arbitration and several other services for international trade;
- ◆ compile a wealth of highly relevant information on its website www.bir.org



WHO are the members of BIR?

- ◆ national recycling federations of all leading industrialised countries
- ◆ major processors, merchants and traders of secondary raw materials worldwide
- ◆ consumers of secondary raw materials
- ◆ companies which provide processing machinery and ancillary services to the recycling industry
- ◆ other commercial companies, associations, federations or public authorities with an interest in international recycling



WHY should your company be a member of BIR?

- ◆ to develop new business and market opportunities in the framework of our bi-annual world recycling conventions and via our exclusive members' database;
- ◆ to improve your expertise and technical knowledge;
- ◆ to increase your awareness of international trade regulations impacting your business;
- ◆ to gain an overview of the situation on the world markets;
- ◆ to better shape the image of the industry;
- ◆ to obtain special assistance and tailor-made advice from our multilingual Brussels secretariat;
- ◆ to interact with the most important supranational bodies (UN, OECD, EU ...) and help them take appropriate legislative decisions;
- ◆ to be part of an international trade federation and to directly impact its decision-making process.