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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **European recycling federations welcome the Communication from the Commission tackling the Challenges in Commodity Markets and on Raw Materials**

The European recycling federations EFR (ferrous scrap collectors, sorters and recyclers) and EUROMETREC (non-ferrous scrap collectors, sorters and recyclers) welcome the Communication on Tackling the Challenges in Commodity Markets and on Raw Materials. There are some key elements of the Communication as:

The identification of the 14 critical materials for the European Union's industry was a vital task which also pointed out low recycling rates for many of those materials. Having made that identification, Mr. Veys, Executive Director of EUROMETREC, observed that "Recyclers have always recycled what is profitable. Within the last two decades, legislation and funds have expanded recycling of materials", and concluded that "It is important that a robust economic and technological study is conducted into the potential for recycling of each of the critical metals especially those that are used in very small quantities, for example in consumer goods in the EU, that are scrapped at their end-of-life."

EFR & EUROMETREC welcome the recognition in the Communication that "the need for legal clarity for defining when reprocessed waste can be classified as a product" is a major policy issue for resource efficiency and for improving conditions for recycling.

EFR & EUROMETREC support the full implementation and enforcement of European laws on the Shipment of Waste so that illegal shipments are at least minimised if not prevented. All the permitted or registered scrap companies legally carrying out their business do not want illegal activities undercutting their market and support that Member States properly enforce the laws. However also as EU taxpayers, recyclers point out that the measurement of both illegality and of enforcement success must be accurate in order to ensure proportionate application of national resources. Seeking innovative solutions should be widely supported, like EU wide paperless electronic systems for waste shipments could prove both to reduce the administrative burden and costs on companies and to facilitate the identification of illegal shipments.

Aside exports the EU is a major importer of goods and materials, including scrap metals for which EU wide industry should agree the Commission adapts it's Trade policy to address third country export restrictions that protect their own industries to the detriment of EU industry, employment and sustainable growth.

Ross Bartley, EFR Environmental and Technical Officer commends the Commission's intent to examine the feasibility of applying a global certification scheme for recycling facilities building on environmentally sound management criteria, and reminds Ministers of their Recommendation at the OECD in 2004, and the agreements on similar environmentally sound management criteria of the UN-EP Basel Convention.

Overall the Communication's initiatives forecast the EU-27 based recycling industries will expand under the smart, sustainable and inclusive growth of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

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**EFR** is the European Ferrous Recovery and Recycling Federation. Its members are national associations and federations in the EU Member States representing the interests of commercial firms that are primarily involved in the collection, trade, processing and recycling of ferrous scrap. In the E.U. member states, more than a thousand large companies and SMEs are represented through EFR. [www.efr2.org](http://www.efr2.org)

**EUROMETREC** is the European Metal Trade and Recycling Federation. Its members are national federations in the EU Member States representing the interests of commercial firms that are primarily involved in the collection, trade, processing and recycling of non-ferrous metal scrap. In the E.U. member states, more than a thousand large companies and SMEs are represented through EUROMETREC. [www.eurometrec.org](http://www.eurometrec.org)

Overall, there are over 40,000 recycling companies collecting and sorting scrap in the EU-27

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