



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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European Recycling Associations urge governments to pursue energy savings and further reduce CO2 emissions

On the occasion of the United Nations' Climate Change Conference currently under way in Poznań (Poland), the European associations for the recycling of ferrous metals (EFR – European Ferrous Recovery and Recycling Federation), non-ferrous metals (EUROMETREC – European Metal Trade and Recycling Federation) and paper (ERPA - European Recovered Paper Association) urge heads of state and government as well as their ministers of the environment to decide on a fair and transparent energy programme that will ensure sustained energy supplies for future generations combined with a substantial reduction of CO2 emissions.

Through the invaluable contribution of the recycling industry, steel mills, foundries and paper mills are able to contribute to important reductions of CO2 emissions by using secondary raw materials (ferrous and non-ferrous scrap, recovered paper) in their production processes.

The world recycling federation Bureau of International Recycling recently published the first global study comparing the carbon footprint and energy savings of primary and secondary materials and came to the conclusion that well over 500 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions are being saved through recycling activities each year, i.e. 1.8% of all the fossil fuel emissions on the planet.

The recycling industry is aware of its important role in the reduction of greenhouse gases and has taken up the challenge of adapting their technologies and the way they operate in line with the requirements of an environmentally friendly management of resources.

EFR, EUROMETREC and ERPA are committed to investing in the future by encouraging the use of innovative technologies that aim at a further improvement of recycling processes. They urge governments to increase the funding for basic research and to ensure that policies facilitate innovation and dissemination of technology.

The European recycling federations also express their full support of free trade of recyclables within Europe and worldwide.

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

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

ERPA is the European Recovered Paper Association. Its members are the national recovered paper federations of the different European Union countries. www.erpa.info

All three federations are daughter federations of the Bureau of International Recycling aisbl.

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