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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

**Brussels, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

### **European Metal Recycling Associations strongly support IPTS final report on end-of-waste criteria**

EFR (European Ferrous Recovery & Recycling Federation) and EUROMETREC (European Metal Trade & Recycling Federation) members, who were holding their respective annual General Assemblies in Budapest on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009 formally welcomed the final report from the European Commission joint research centre IPTS contributing to the development and implementation of the concept of end of waste (EOW).

The final report that has been prepared on request of DG Environment is proposing a general methodology as well as potential end-of-waste criteria for three pilot case studies, amongst which metal scrap, using examples of aluminium and steel scrap.

The concept of EOW was introduced by the Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste, which was adopted by the European Commission on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2005 after many years of never-ending debates and successive court cases about the status of the end products from scrap recycling facilities.

For more than 20 years, EFR and EUROMETREC were asking for a revision of the EU Framework Directive and for a clear recognition of the “end product” of the scrap recycling industry in a revised directive.

This new Waste Framework Directive revises the Directive of 1991 (which amended the first directive of 1975) and was adopted by the European Parliament and the EU Council on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008 (Directive 2008/98/EC of 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008), demonstrating the political agreement and support for moving the point at which waste ceases to be waste.

The new directive contains provisions to define EOW criteria that provide a high level of environmental protection and an economic benefit.

EFR and EUROMETREC members strongly supported IPTS approach during their General Assemblies in Budapest. They confirmed their availability and readiness to assist the EU and national authorities in cooperation with the main consumers of their end products i.e steelworks, foundries, smelters to carry the criteria proposed by IPTS into a Commission decision of end of waste.

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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)

Both of these federations are daughter federations of the Bureau of International Recycling aisbl.