



Press Release

European Copper Alloy Import Makers after robust year 2013 continuously upwards

The European Copper Alloy Import Makers (OECAM) managed to finish the last year positively. In the running year the association again expect a positive development referring to production. This was pointed out by the President of OECAM, Anton Bauer, G. Alt & Co. GesmbH, Austria, during the last General Assembly on 19 September 2014 in Stockholm, Sweden. The European federation was founded 1989 in Venice and celebrated in Stockholm its 25-years existence.

Referring to the production figures for the first and second quarter of 2014 an increase of about 5 % is expected against 2013, Mr. Bauer declared. The major product of the branch is brass alloy, beside tin-bronze and gunmetal. These alloys are mainly used in the sanitary industry.

A significant issue of the meeting this year was the discussion about the impending limitation of lead (max. 300 ppm) in copper alloys. Alloys with higher contents will be classified as reprotoxic. Federation members are highly worried about the approach of the European Commission, at that exist no valid studies, which verify a harmfulness of alloys in practice. The branch pleads for a decision, which is based on realistic assumptions.

Besides this important issue for all general metals the current state of the hygienic list was also on the agenda. The partly significant lowering of copper alloys permitted for drinking water is leading the branch to the problem of processing lead-containing scraps.

The association has 16 member companies, the most southern from Turkey and the most northern from Sweden. The most important consuming countries for Copper Alloy Ingots are Germany and Italy followed by France and Turkey.

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