



## Press Release

### **European Copper Alloy Ingot Makers 2017 slightly und previous year´s level**

The situation of the European copper alloy manufacturers has changed only insignificantly compared to the previous year. This was stated by the President of the Association, Mr. Anton Bauer, G. Alt & Co. GesmbH, Austria, at this year's General Assembly on 21.9.2018 in Barcelona, Spain.

The mood in the industry is slightly depressed. The turmoil caused by Britain's exit from the EU and trade disputes with the United States do not contribute to confidence. Nevertheless, the production volume of the European manufacturers fell in 2017 only just under 2% below the previous year's level. The current industry survey has given a slightly positive assessment of the current situation and a slightly more pessimistic development is expected for the next 12 months.

A number of environmental discussions in the EU have been taking companies for several years. Although the new drinking water-compatible alloys, which comply with the new EU limit values, have just come onto the market, the EU is already working on halving the limit values. This would mean that a large part of the elaborately tested alloys would no longer be approved for drinking water applications. The inclusion of lead in the REACH Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) is particularly critical. If there is an approval procedure, each use of lead would have to be requested separately. This would have a strong influence on the established material cycles. It threatens a creeping death of lead-containing alloys, which dominated the market for decades. The hitherto closed raw material cycle could therefore be in danger of being interrupted. Despite intensive research currently a solution for an economically meaningful removal of lead from the alloys does not exist. It is to be feared that this new regulation will drain even more scrap from Europe into countries where the restrictions on the products are not as great as in the EU.

The association consists of 15 companies from 8 countries.

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