



## Press Release

### European Copper Alloy Ingot Makers have a bad year behind them

The situation of the European copper alloy manufacturers has worsened significantly compared to the previous year. This was stated by President of the Association, Mr. Anton Bauer, G. Alt & Co. GesmbH, Austria.

This year's General Assembly of the OECAM took place due to the coronavirus via video conference.

The production of the member companies was about 15% lower than in the previous year. According to an internal survey 69% of the companies assess the current situation as bad, 8% as good. The outlook for the next 6 months looks somewhat more favourable. For example, 31% of companies estimate that the situation will improve, 15% think that the economic situation will deteriorate. Lack of orders is cited as a major constraint on production, followed by payment default and increased sick leave. About half of the companies have to deal with quarantine situations due to the corona pandemic. As a result of the economic slowdown, credit insurers have also tightened their conditions. This is reported by about 50% of all companies.

Besides the purely economic developments, the industry is also very much occupied with the European discussion about the metal lead. The classification of lead as environmental hazard is now somewhat more differentiated. According to the guidelines, solid lead and lead powder are to be separated. Although lead is listed as a SVHC substance on the candidate list, the Echa draft does not provide for authorisation under REACH.

Overall, the entire industry still sees a risk that lead-containing products/raw materials will be forced off the market. The companies work almost exclusively with scrap as feedstock and thus make a major contribution to climate protection. Compared to the use of primary copper, the production of climate-damaging CO<sub>2</sub> is reduced by about 75%.

The association consists of 14 companies from 7 countries.

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