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**"Refractories in metallurgy: production, research methodology, application's"**

During an international conference held under the above topic, President of the Board of the Association delivered a speech on "Current trends in the worldwide and domestic iron and steel industry". The conference was attended by members of the Association, producers of refractories and other Polish and foreign producers, distributors as well as representatives of research institutes and universities. The conference gave an opportunity of presenting new products, the outcome of researches on refractories and changes on the refractories market. ■

**EUROFER Environment Committee**

A meeting of EUROFER Environmental Committee took place in Krakow on 19 June 2007. The meeting was hosted by Polish Steel Association. The Management Board of Arcelor Mittal Steel Poland S.A. Krakow Branch was kind enough to let the attendees learn the manufacturing process in Krakow steelwork. The range of issues discussed included:

- climate change,
- change of IPPC directive,
- SOx and NOx emission trade,
- implementation of REACH regulation
- BREF revision.

The presented issues were found the most important for consideration with respect to ecology. ■

**EUROFER Statistics Committee**

EUROFER Statistics Committee was held in Vienna on 14 June 2007. The following points were on the agenda:

- foreign trade data availability,
- exchange of data (steel sector) by EU Member States in 2003-2009 on the basis of the regulation No.48/2004 of the European Union Parliament and the Council,
- discussion on the possibility of national data exchange among steel associations – Poland will get involved in this process through HIPH,
- EUROFER voluntary statistics,
- preparation of Bulgaria and Romania to participate in the sectoral statistics exchange. ■

**"Stadia & Arena 2012" Conference**

On 5-6 June 2007, there was an international conference, "Stadia & Arena 2012" held on the New Wembley Stadium to present the achievements and the needs with respect to the London Olympics. Many conclusions concerning the experiences gained during the stadium reconstruction were shared during the conference. Demolition of the old stadium and construction of the new, very modern one took almost 8 years at the cost of 760 million GBP. The Conference presented British expertise in financing sports infrastructure projects, Public Private Partnership models applied in such projects and some innovative solutions implemented in the stadia and other sports projects' construction. The conference

was accompanied by an exhibition showing the suppliers of products for sports projects. It was a very useful event making us aware of some vital issues relating to sport events such as EURO'2012 championship.■

### **Opinions on the new and the amended legal regulations.**

The Association has recently provided its opinion on the below mentioned legal regulations

- for GUS: proposal for CN changes on the products covered by 7304 and 7306 codes (letter ref. HIPH/1563/2007 of 27.06.2007),
- for Ministry of Environment: draft regulation amending the regulation on determining types of projects which can significantly influence the environment and the specific conditions for qualifying the project for preparation of environmental impact report,
- Poland's standpoint on the proposed amendments to IPPC directive (letter ref. HIPH/1483/07 of 15.06.2007),
- for HIPH Members: information on coming into force the regulation No. 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council of 18.12.2006 on the registration, assessment, permits granted and restrictions with respect to chemicals (REACH) and the information on the establishment of the European Chemicals Agency (letter ref. HIPH/1346/07 of 4 June 2007).■

### **Forum Dyrektorów Handlowych**

Forum of Trade Directors of HIPH Members was organised by the Board of the Association in Ustro on 26-27 June 2007. The following issues were discussed:

- output results of the steel sector and the cooperating industries after 5

months of 2007 and the situation in trade and consumption of steel products after 4 months of 2007,

- threats resulting from cheap imports of steel products to the EU from the third countries.

The assessment of the steel products markets and the prognosis for 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2007 was made. After 5 months, 15% growth of crude steel production and hot-rolled products output was recorded against similar period in 2006. After 4 months of 2007, exports of steel products rose by 10%, imports by 32% and the apparent consumption by 30%. The European statistics show a rapid growth of imports from the third countries, mainly from China (hot-rolled coils and rolled steel wire) and Turkey (reinforcement bars). The first quarter of 2007 recorded imports to the EU from China of 2 million tonnes of rolled products, which constitutes nearly 1/3 of imports from the third countries. Attention was paid to reduced demand for steel products made in Poland resulted from record stocks and careful purchases as well as large amounts of price-competitive products imported from third countries. It forced producers to amend their prices. The producers count on maintaining the current level of sales and do not plan any further price reductions in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2007. A representative of Linde Gaz Polska Sp. z o.o, a member of HIPH since 1 July 2007, made a presentation on the possibilities of increasing the efficiency of reheating furnaces in the steel sector.■

### **Dutch Students in Silesia**

In early June 2007, the Silesia Voivodship was visited by a group of students from the School of Economics at the Utrecht University (Holland). One of the topics chosen for their study treated about the steel sector development and its role for the Silesia Voivodship. The students met the

regional authorities at the Marshal Office in Katowice. During the meeting, Deputy President of the Association introduced the current situation of the steel sector in Poland. Thanks to the Management Board of the Association and the Management Board of Huta Batory Sp. z o.o., the interested students had a chance to visit the steelwork and have talks with some competent representatives of the plant on the issues important for their research. The talks continued in the Chamber's office. We thank the President of Huta Batory Sp. z o.o. for help in organizing this visit.■

### **Our Participation in General Meetings**

Upon invitation of sectoral economic organisations, we took part in General Meetings of:

- Mining Chamber of Industry and Commerce
- Casting Chamber of Commerce
- Union of Steel Industry Employers

### **New HIPH Members**

- In 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2007, HIPH was joined by:

**Przedsi biorstwo Materiałów Ogniotrwałych KOMEX Sp. z o.o.**

and

**Linde Gaz Polska Sp. z o.o.**

**Cordially welcome among the Members of our Association**