

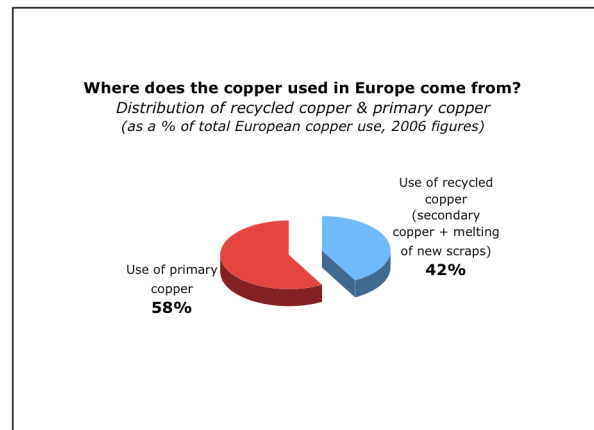
Brussels, 3 June 2008

There's Only One Earth, and Europe Doesn't Waste It Europe's Copper Recycling Rates Higher than Asia and North America

The latest figures of the International Copper Study Group (ICSG) show that the use of copper is going up – more than double what was used in 1970. And the good news: overall recycling rates of copper are also on the rise. In fact, 37% of the world's copper usage came from recycling, including the recycling of end-of-life products, called '**secondary production**', and the direct recycling of 'new scrap' (waste resulting from the manufacturing process). And in Europe, this figure is 42%.

Recycling and Reliance on the Red Metal

How does Europe compare with other regions around the globe? **Europe's copper recycling rates are higher than any other region in the world.** At a regional level, 42% of the copper usage in Europe is met via recycling. "This means that the European copper industry is contributing in a significant way to the sustainable use of resources," said John Schonenberger, Chief Executive of the European Copper Institute (ECI). In Asia, this level is 38%; in North America, 32%; and in the rest of the world, only 16%.¹



Moreover, the copper recycling process results in energy savings of up to 85% compared to primary production.

Representing 30% of the world's demand, total copper usage in Europe reached 6.8 million tonnes in 2006. Refined copper use per capita in Europe of nearly 7 kg in 2006 was up from just over 6 kg in 2000.

Which industries rely on copper?

The largest users of refined copper are the energy sector and the building industry. In Europe, use is broken down as follows²:

- **Electricity and Energy** (including wires and cables in building): 58%
- **Building and Construction** (including architecture and tubes): 26%
- **Engineering** (industrial plant and machinery, furniture, coinage): 10%
- **Transport**: 5%
- Other: 1%

No copper = No innovation

Copper is integral in countless innovative applications, from information and communication technologies to healthcare to energy to transportation. A few examples:

¹ 2006 figures

² Source: International Wrought Copper Council (IWCC)

- **Healthcare.** Trials are now underway in German and UK hospitals to establish whether the installation of copper surfaces, such as door handles, push plates, bathroom taps and grab rails, will inactivate superbugs like MRSA and other hospital-acquired infections, such as Clostridium difficile, as already observed in laboratories.
- **Modern solar technology** relies on the physical and mechanical properties of copper. Nearly 60% of the absorbent surfaces of solar collectors are made up of fine copper sheets, approximately 0.2mm thick. Copper is also found in supply lines, heat exchangers, pumps, electrical cables and shut-down mechanisms.
- **Mobile technology.** Approximately 14% of the weight of a mobile telephone is comprised of copper, and as much as 19% if the battery and the charger cable are included. In 2006, more than 1 billion mobile telephones were sold³, the equivalent of 20,000 tonnes of copper.
- **Transportation.** Travelling at speeds of up to 330-350 km/hour during commercial services, the Velaro[®], Siemens's ICE 3 (Inter-City Express 3), is the fastest high-speed train in the world and has been hourly plying the Barcelona/Madrid route since its launch earlier this year. Central to its impressive performance is the fact that copper is an indispensable component both of catenary systems and of distributed electric traction motors.

Copper's benefits:

- 100% recyclable, ad infinitum
- Recycling of copper limits use of natural resources
- Recycling of copper reduces energy consumption
- Recycling of copper decreases waste disposal problems
- One of the few materials that does not decompose or lose its chemical or physical properties during the recycling process
- Extremely durable

About the European Copper Institute

The European Copper Institute (ECI) is a joint venture between the world's mining companies (represented by the International Copper Association, Ltd) and the European copper industry. Its mission is to promote copper's benefits to modern society across Europe through its headquarters in Brussels and a network of eleven Copper Development Associations.

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High-resolution images available on www.eurocopper.org.

³ Source : Strategy Analytics