

## Editorial

**2**006 will be regarded as a year of sustained growth at the global level. Of course China, now accompanied by India, has shown the strongest increase.

During 2006, the European economies experienced a revival in activity compared to 2005, mainly caused by exports. The French economy was part of this development, but this was more mixed, the good results from construction and the engineering industry not eliminating the fall in car manufacturing and the stagnation of industrial investment.

In the steel sector, 2006 was first of all marked by the birth of the Arcelor Mittal group, a major event in the continued consolidation of the global steel industry. With a production of about 117 million tons, it is in fact three times bigger than its closest rival, Nippon Steel.

The strong growth in the Chinese steel industry and in steel demand in China has not diminished. Chinese steel production, at over 400 million tons, has more than quadrupled in 10 years; in 2006, it represented 35 % of global production.

In this context of sustained growth, raw material prices have continued to show a strongly bullish trend or have increased sharply, like nickel, zinc and, at the end of the year, tin.

The European and the French markets have seen apparent consumption rise significantly, between 8% and 13 % for the largest markets. This is the result of stock rebuilding, that was required following the excessive reduction in stocks observed in 2005, and growth in activity in the construction and engineering sectors.

The quality of the environment is a major and constant concern. The French steel industry has been tackling this for several years, one of the first milestones being the voluntary commitment to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, signed in 1996 by the French Steel Federation. In 2006 there was intense activity on this theme with, firstly, the development of the National Allocation Plan (NAP2), the first phase of which was drawn up with the full cooperation of the steel industry, but which, at the end of the year, was unilaterally defined at a much lower level by the French government under pressure from Brussels. We should also mention the ATS Environment Mini-Conference and the seminar on climate change in partnership, organized by the FFA in partnership with Fercis (a tripartite foundation grouping together state, employers and social partners in the steel industry).

**2007** should continue the trend of 2006. The backdrop to the steel market remains strong growth in China and India, which will not diminish.

Consolidation in the steel industry will continue, like the Corus/Tata Steel merger at the beginning of this year.

There will be several issues relating to the environment: the implementation of REACH, in relation to which the French Steel Federation will continue with action started in 2006, the issue of waste, energy questions which are already at the heart of activities.

Growth is scheduled for the European economy; the expertise and the innovation of the steel processing industries in Europe represent strong assets which make these leaders at a global level. A reduction in the volatility of the price of raw materials, stabilization of their markets and integration by of iron mine by steel manufacturers, like Arcelor Mittal, can only be beneficial.

## THE MARKET

There was sustained economic growth in 2006, with global growth of 5.3 % against 4.7 % in 2005. The new rise in the oil price during the first six months and of the price of raw materials throughout the year, have not damaged the dynamism of the global economy. Furthermore, inflationist pressures remained weak.

### GDP GROWTH IN %

	2005	2006
World	4.7	5.3
European Union	1.9	3.2
North America	3.2	3.4
South America	4.7	5.1
Asia	7.3	7.8

Source : Rexecode

American growth had a 'soft landing' and this only affected the residential property sector; household expenditure remained strong. The dynamism of the emerging countries economies was not affected. Chinese growth continued above 10 % and this despite government measures to calm overheating. In India, growth was also higher than 9 %, thanks to a still dynamic services sector but also to its growing manufacturing industry. Japan recorded growth of 2.2 %, despite low household demand, but boosted by a yen exchange rate at its lowest levels.

The countries of Latin America maintained high growth, despite an increase in American interest rates.

Russia continued to benefit from high levels of prices for base products.

In Europe, growth accelerated in the Euro zone and reached a rate of 2.8 %, following four years of low growth. The recovery was based on exports, but also on an upturn in domestic demand, both household consumption and investment. The recovery in investment concerned investment in capital goods, but also investment in non residential construction.

The pleasant surprise was Germany, which again became the driving force of the Euro zone, with growth of 2.9 %, drawing business from Belgium and the Netherlands. The Spanish economy again recorded very strong growth. Although these four countries recorded growth close to 3 %, even clearly exceeding this in the case of Spain, France and Italy are lagging behind, with GDP growth not exceeding 2 %.

Because of this, there was a strong recovery in steel consuming sector activity in the European Union, with a rate of 5.4 % against 1.8 % in 2005. However, in France, growth barely reached 1 %, penalized by the decline in car manufacturing.

Manufacturing in the mechanical engineering sector recorded strong growth at a rate of 7 %, a rate exceeded in Germany and close to the average in France. The good performance of exports, combined with a recovery in investment, contributed to this exceptional growth.

The metalworking sector grew by 6 %, but only by 1 % in France, penalized by the decline in car manufacturing. In fact, French car production fell by 13 %, while it grew slightly in the EU as a whole.

Construction in France continued at a rate of growth close to 5 %, in line with the EU average. Residential construction, which retained its dynamism, was accompanied by a recovery in the non residential sector. This recovery in non residential construction was also recorded in the other EU countries. In fact, the upturn in investment and the increase in utilization rates of industrial capacity, were the driving force of this recovery.

In this context, real steel consumption in the EU increased by about 5.5 % over the past year. It increased by 1 % in France, a

rise brought about by long products, while a slight fall was recorded for flat products.

Apparent consumption of steel in the European Union increased by 12 %. In France, the rise was close to 10 %, following a fall of 11 % in 2005.

### Domestic market (steel finished products) (thousand tons)

Supply	2006	Variation in %
French mill deliveries	7 443	2.8
Imports	9 936	16.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17 379</b>	<b>10.2</b>

As a result, supplies of finished steel products to the French market increased by more than 10 %. However, this increase benefited imports, which increased by more than 16 %, while supplies by French plants increased by less than 3 %.

### European Union foreign trade

Imports of EU steel products from third countries (excluding semi-finished products) increased by 58 % following a slight fall the previous year. The dynamism of the European market, accompanied by an increase in production capacity in China, was a particular stimulus for their growth. The increase was 67 % for flat products and 38 % for long products. Chinese imports of all steel products quadrupled. Their share in total imports, which was below 10 % in 2005, therefore represented 23 % in 2006, for flat products. For long products, this share remained low. Imports from Russia and Turkey rose respectively by 35 % and 46 % for all products.

Exports of steel products to third countries fell sharply, especially for flat products, with a fall of 4 %. Total exports to the United States increased by 6.9 %, but there was a significant reduction to China at - 24 %.

The trade balance was in deficit for flat products, while it remains scarcely in credit for long products.

French foreign trade (in 1000 t)								
	Steel products				Processing products			
	Exports		Imports		Exports		Imports	
	2006	Var. %	2006	Var. %	2006	Var. %	2006	Var. %
European Union countries (25)	14 824	10.9	13 797	13.5	1 116	6.2	1 933	3.6
Third countries	1 784	-19.0	702	41.8	767	10.2	161	-6.4
of which :								
Western Europe	565	-10.9	190	46.2	101	0.0	666	-9.4
Central and Eastern Europe	39	44.4	89	50.8	47	30.6	86	36.5
United States	419	-7.9	30	100.0	72	2.9	491	-6.5
China	34	-33.3	14	1 300.0	63	65.8	97	9.0
Other third countries	727	-29.8	379	30.7	84	7.3	211	-18.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16 608</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>14 499</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>1 883</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>2 094</b>	<b>2.8</b>

Source Customs (\*)Steel products finished steel products+semi-products for re-rolling.

French imports of steel products and steel processing products increased by 12.9 %. This increase was particularly strong for steel products, with an upsurge in imports from third countries.

French exports of steel products and steel processing products outside Europe were also up, by almost 7 %. This increase was the result of exports to European Union countries, while exports to other zones fell sharply.

As a result, the balance of foreign trade in steel products and steel processing products deteriorated.

# GLOBAL STEEL PRODUCTION

	Production (kt)			Variations	
	2 004	2 005	2 006	05/04	06/05
<b>European Union (25)</b>	<b>194 189</b>	<b>187 330</b>	<b>198 455</b>	<b>- 3.5%</b>	<b>+ 5.9%</b>
of which: Germany	46 374	44 524	47 224	- 4.0%	+ 6.1%
Austria	6 530	7 031	7 129	+ 7.7%	+ 1.4%
Belgium	11 698	10 420	11 631	- 10.9%	+ 11.6%
Spain	17 621	17 826	18 391	+ 1.2%	+ 3.2%
Finland	4 832	4 739	5 054	- 1.9%	+ 6.6%
France	20 770	19 481	19 852	- 6.2%	+ 1.9%
Greece	1 967	2 266	2 416	+ 15.2%	+ 6.6%
Italy	28 604	29 350	31 617	+ 2.6%	+ 7.7%
Luxemburg	2 684	2 194	2 802	- 18.3%	+ 27.7%
Netherlands	6 846	6 919	6 372	+ 1.1%	- 7.9%
Portugal	1 400	1 400	1 400	0.0%	0.0%
United Kingdom	13 766	13 248	13 871	- 3.8%	+ 4.7%
Sweden	5 978	5 723	5 466	- 4.3%	- 4.5%
Baltic States	521	550	550	+ 5.6%	+ 0.0%
Hungary	1 952	1 958	2 089	+ 0.3%	+ 6.7%
Poland	10 593	8 444	10 008	- 20.3%	+ 18.5%
Czech Republic	7 033	6 189	6 862	- 12.0%	+ 10.9%
Slovakia	4 454	4 485	5 093	+ 0.7%	+ 13.6%
Slovenia	566	583	628	+ 3.0%	+ 7.7%
<b>Other Western European countries</b>	<b>23 992</b>	<b>24 917</b>	<b>28 007</b>	<b>+ 3.9%</b>	<b>+ 12.4%</b>
of which: Turkey	20 478	20 965	23 308	+ 2.4%	+ 11.2%
<b>Other Eastern European countries</b>	<b>121 653</b>	<b>121 555</b>	<b>128 106</b>	<b>- 0.1%</b>	<b>+ 5.4%</b>
of which: Bulgaria	2 106	1 969	2 123	- 6.5%	+ 7.8%
Romania	6 042	6 235	6 263	+ 3.2%	+ 0.4%
Kazakhstan	5 385	4 451	4 225	- 17.3%	- 5.1%
Russia	65 583	66 146	70 645	+ 0.9%	+ 6.8%
Ukraine	38 738	38 641	40 800	- 0.3%	+ 5.6%
<b>North America</b>	<b>134 021</b>	<b>127 631</b>	<b>131 530</b>	<b>- 4.8%</b>	<b>+ 3.1%</b>
of which: Canada	16 305	15 327	15 366	- 6.0%	+ 0.3%
United States	99 681	94 897	98 557	- 4.8%	+ 3.9%
Mexico	16 737	16 195	16 313	- 3.2%	+ 0.7%
<b>South America</b>	<b>45 875</b>	<b>45 316</b>	<b>45 298</b>	<b>- 1.2%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
of which: Argentina	5 133	5 380	5 533	+ 4.8%	+ 2.8%
Brazil	32 909	31 610	30 901	- 3.9%	- 2.2%
Venezuela	4 561	4 910	4 864	+ 7.7%	- 0.9%
<b>Asia</b>	<b>510 050</b>	<b>593 440</b>	<b>669 731</b>	<b>+ 16.3%</b>	<b>+ 12.9%</b>
of which: China	280 486	355 790	422 660	+ 26.8%	+ 18.8%
South Korea	47 520	47 820	48 455	+ 0.6%	+ 1.3%
India	32 626	40 862	44 001	+ 25.2%	+ 7.7%
Japan	112 718	112 471	116 226	- 0.2%	+ 3.3%
Taiwan	19 599	18 942	20 192	- 3.4%	+ 6.6%
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>14 253</b>	<b>15 257</b>	<b>15 376</b>	<b>+ 7.0%</b>	<b>+ 0.8%</b>
<b>Africa</b>	<b>16 706</b>	<b>17 945</b>	<b>18 639</b>	<b>+ 7.4%</b>	<b>+ 3.9%</b>
of which: South Africa	9 500	9 494	9 718	- 0.1%	+ 2.4%
<b>Australia - New Zealand</b>	<b>8 300</b>	<b>8 646</b>	<b>8 690</b>	<b>+ 4.2%</b>	<b>+ 0.5%</b>
<b>World</b>	<b>1 069 039</b>	<b>1 142 037</b>	<b>1 243 832</b>	<b>+ 6.8%</b>	<b>+ 8.9%</b>

Source : I.I.S.I.

Growth in global steel production accelerated last year, with an increase of 8.9 %, reaching almost 1,245 million tonnes of crude steel, according to the IISI. Since 2000, the trend has been an average annual rate of 8 %, whereas over the period 1974-2000 the trend was an average of 1 %.

If the strong growth in steel production in 2006 reflects the strong recovery in demand across all world zones, the rates of increase were very different.

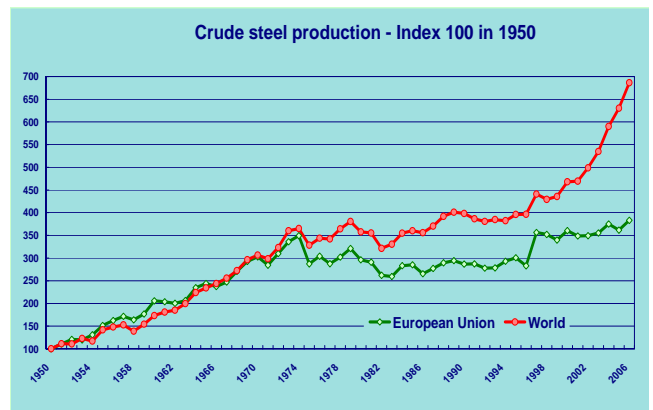
Asia recorded growth of 12.9 % and its share of global production is close to 54 %. Chinese production increased by almost 19 %, after 26.8 % in 2005. The rate of increase in Chinese steel production has been close to 22 % since 2000, and represents over 35 % of global production. India recorded an increase of 8 %, after 25 % in 2005. Japanese production and Korean production increased respectively by 3 % and 1 %.

In North America, production rose by 3 % but did not regain its 2004 level. The zone represents less than 10 % of global steel production.

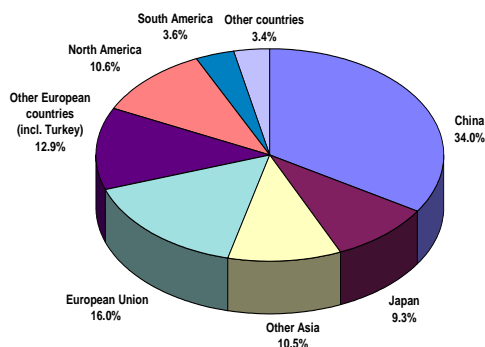
Steel production in South America stabilized at its 2005 level. Production by Russia and the Ukraine rose by 7 % and 6 % respectively.

In Turkey growth was up, with an increase of more than 11 %.

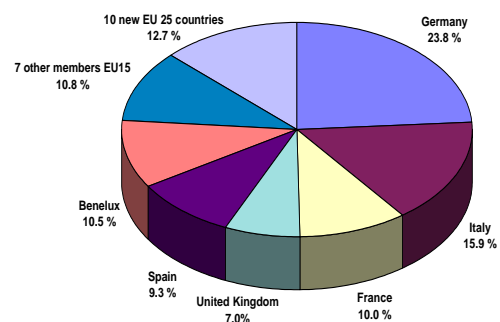
Production by the European Union increased by 5.9 %, the result of an upturn in activity by the consuming sectors. In France the increase was slight, with growth of 1.9 %, while it was above 6 % in Germany and reached 7.5 % in Italy. Europe 25's share of global steel production was 16 % in 2006.



World crude steel production - Year 2006



Crude steel production - European Union (25) - Year 2006



## ENERGY SUPPLIES

### IRON ORE (in 1000 tons)

	2005	2006*	Variation in % 2006/2005
Imports	20 092	20 507	+ 2.1 %

\*preliminary figures

#### Main sources of imports

Brazil : 64.8 %	Australia : 15.7 %
Mauritania : 12.2 %	Canada : 4.5 %

### SCRAP (in 1 000 tons)

	2005	2006*	Variation in %
Domestic collection	8 805	9 262	+ 5.2 %
Imports	1 690	1 830	+ 8.3 %
Total supplies	10 495	11 092	+ 5.7 %
Consumption	9 870	10 398	+ 5.3 %

\* preliminary figures

### ENERGY

Coke and bituminous coal consumption up by 3.2 % and external purchases up by 14.1 %

## INVESTMENTS – RESEARCH – DEVELOPMENT

Main investments announced or started in 2006:

#### 1. relating to respect for environment and energy savings :

- ADA (Aciérie de l'Atlantique) implemented actions aiming at reducing energy consumption at its plant in Boucau, actions concerning as well the electric furnace (conventional reactance) as pumps and new generation fans, some of them being equipped with variable speed drives.
- Arcelor Atlantique et Lorraine implemented a new 50,000 m<sup>3</sup> gazometer to recover gas from its coking plant in Dunkirk.
- Arcelor Atlantique et Lorraine is to revamp the gas desulphurization of its Seremange coking plant.
- Arcelor Méditerranée Fos ordered slag granulation equipment which is to start in 2007.
- Ascométal Allevard installed an oil separator on the water recovery basins of the rolling mills.
- Ascométal Dunes installed a scrap oxycutting line equipped with a dust recovery system.
- Ascométal equipped 4 new soaking pits with oxygas burners at its plant in Fos to reduce ingot heating time, natural gas consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and installed a droplet catcher to recover chloride acid contained in the atmospheric emissions of the pickling plant.
- Ascometal Hagondange installed a new decanter for the rolling mill waste water.
- LME commissioned a new recovery and filtration system for the fumes of Trith Saint-Léger's electric furnace (new 20,000 m<sup>2</sup> jet filter equipped with 4 ventilators of a capacity of 15 kW and a real specific rate of 2,100,000 m<sup>3</sup>/h).
- Mittal Steel Gandrange replaced its polychlorodiphenyl transformers.
- Three of the four plants of Riva Group (Alpa Porcheville, Iton-Seine Bonnières and SAM Montereau) upgraded their water treatment system. Moreover Porcheville plant increased the filtration capacity of the sinter plant dust recovery system and commissioned a new scale treatment system.

#### 2. to fulfill customers requirements and to improve the products quality

- Arcelor Atlantique et Lorraine ended the first revamping of three continuous casters (of which a vertical bending one) at Dunkirk.

- Arcelor Atlantique et Lorraine upgraded its electrogalvanizing line in Florange Sainte-Agathe.
- Arcelor Méditerranée commissioned a new coiling machine with high thicknesses at its hot rolling plant in Fos. This equipment will be devoted to the pipe market (up to 25 mm).
- Mittal Steel installed a size measurement gauge behind the Kocks block of the LCB (bar and coil mill) and a further straightening machine for the large-sized products issuing from the LCB.

#### 3. to optimize costs and increase capacities

- Arcelor Atlantique et Lorraine commissioned Dunkirk's BF 3 in November 2006 after relining.
- Arcelor Atlantique et Lorraine commissioned a new unloading bridge for ships in Dunkirk.
- Arcelor Atlantique et Lorraine started to upgrade the process control of its converters at Dunkirk's steel plant.
- Arcelor Atlantique et Lorraine upgraded the whole cooling system of Dunkirk's hot rolling mill.
- Arcelor Atlantique et Lorraine improved the logistics of its plants in Dunkirk, Mardyck and Montataire.
- Arcelor Atlantique et Lorraine Mardyck connected the pickling line and the tandem mill.
- Arcelor Atlantique et Lorraine increased the capacity of its galvanizing line in Montataire (+ 60 kt).
- Arcelor Atlantique et Lorraine increased the capacity of its aluminum-silicon coating line in Mouzon.
- Arcelor Méditerranée has started to increase the coking plant capacity in Fos.
- Ascométal commissioned a new electric furnace and went on increasing its tempering capacities with the implementation of two new bar tempering furnaces at its plant in Les Dunes.
- Duferco launched the revamping of its galvanizing lines in Strasbourg to increase their capacities (+ 70 kt contemplated in 2007).
- Mittal Steel made investments to make its electric furnace at Gandrange reliable (upper shell ring, roof...) and equipped its continuous casting n° 1 with new extractors.
- SAM Neuves-Maisons revamped its electric furnace.
- Vallourec launched the reconstruction of its steel plant in Saint-Saulve aiming at producing 730,000 tons of steel per year.

#### 4. Concerning development of processes and new products to be noted that :

- In 2006, Arcelor kept on focusing its R&D efforts on new processes meeting 3 major targets: lowering costs, increasing productivity in manufacturing process, improving the quality of products, protecting environment by reducing emissions, increasing recycling and analyzing the life cycle of steel products.

Examples:

##### 1. Environment protection

- continuation of ULCOS project (Ultra Low CO<sub>2</sub> Steelmaking). 5 evaluated technologies on 70 have been retained for experimentation on 4 years. The technology of recycling decarbonated top gas in blast furnace seems to be a promising route;
- reduction of gaseous emissions at the sinter plant (Sox, NOx);
- assessment of a recycling and upgrading system for sludge and dust (blast furnace and steel plant) by melting in an electric furnace.

##### 2. Lowering of production costs and increasing productivity in manufacturing process

- adaptation of the blast furnace process for a steady working with a very low consumption of coke by increasing carbon injections over 200 kg/t of pig iron;

- definition and validation of optimal conditions allowing to increase the melting capacity of scrap at the oxygen converter;
- designing and industrialization of a severe cooling technique of the hot strip mill;

##### 3. Improvement of the process reliability and of the quality of steel products

- industrialization of the on-line cleanness assessment technique by optical emission spectrometry;
  - optimization of the continuous casting conditions to avoid segregation defects during the continuous casting of high strength steels;
  - designing and industrialization - for different grades - of on-line predicting models on the mechanical properties of the product at hot strip mill exit.
- LME is making trials on high temperature bags on pilot filter unit.
  - Mittal Steel is offering new high strength steel grades aimed at improving the mechanical performances of automotive engines and applications for trucks and is working out new products with high mechanical characteristics for the wire drawing industry, particularly aimed at lightening ropes for offshore platforms and hanging bridges or cable-stayed bridges.

## ENVIRONMENT – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Water** and **air** in particular are more than ever the main themes for French steelmakers in their wish to continue to reduce the impact of their activity on the environment. Several projects in these areas deserve to be mentioned.

One example is the investment of €7 million made by LME in the installation of dust extraction filters at the Trith St Léger steel plant. The ALPA steel plant has also improved its dust extraction, at a cost of more than €1 million. Finally, the installation of a bag filter at the Fos-sur-Mer sinter plant of Arcelor Méditerranée in 2005, showed the considerable improvement achieved in 2006, as it reduced the main polluting emissions by 25 to 45 % (apart from nitro compounds). The sinter plant at Dunkirk, operated by Arcelor Atlantic et Lorraine, is committed to other means to reduce its emissions (for example by injecting activated carbon). An assessment of these different research routes will be made.

The fight against the risk of legionnaires' disease has also led to significant investment, like using sea water for cooling at Dunkirk (over €2 million) or remelting of the cooling towers at the 4 Ascometal sites for € 1.2 million.

Finally, as the new coke oven battery at Fos (Arcelor Méditerranée) started operating in July 2006, it can be noted that the share of investment linked to the environment there is over € 5 million.

As for **water**, it has been possible to measure the impact of the investment made at Dunkirk on the residual water from the coking plant, with a reduction of 52 % in nitrogen emissions.

In the field of **energy** and **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**, we note the installation of oxygas burners at the Fos Ascometal steel plant or the improvement in the hot charging of semi-finished products at the SAM steel plant at Neuves-Maisons. This process, which consists of rolling the semi-finished products from the steel plant in tight flow without having the time to cool them is particularly effective in electric steel plants, but is only possible on very standardized product ranges.

**Climate change** has once again been the main concern. The French government, after a year of negotiating with industry, finally chose to align its Allocation Plan for 2008/2012 to the Commission's proposals, thereby placing several sectors in difficulty. In 2006, the steel industry emitted approximately 27.6 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub>. However, the Plan only affects 24.9 Mt of this a year, with an assumed growth of 1 % a year in steel production. This is even more inadequate. As the development programmes planned by members of the FFA are significantly higher than this assumption, even if it is probable that higher levels can be obtained on an administrative basis by increasing capacity, this plan leaves the French steel industry in a very uncertain situation.

**Waste** has also mobilized the FFA to a great extent. The steel industry produces almost 8 Mt of waste and co-products a year, with over 80 % recovery; almost 40 % of its raw materials are scrap iron from the end of product life, and this recyclability is a unique asset in the materials field. The revision, now in progress, of the European Waste Directive is therefore a subject of major concern. The FFA is actively participating in discussions in France and in Europe

The launch in 2006 of the process of **revising the system of reference of the best available technologies in the steel industry**, which is a key element in the regulation of steel sites in Europe and in France, will also mobilize energies within the steel industry. The FFA will, helped by its members, ensure that this revision will be a source of progress, without being a source of loss of competitiveness.

Finally, REACH, the regulation on chemical substances, was adopted at the end of the year; the FFA has invested a lot in working to prepare its application; in February 2007, in liaison with the industry ministry and the Chemical Industries Union, it prepared training on REACH, which was specific to the steel industry. The FFA will be very involved in helping members on this project, which is very complex. REACH could indeed completely revolutionize relations between those involved in supply chains of goods manufactured in Europe.

## RECYCLING

Between 2005 and 2006, the consumption rate of scrap iron to produce 1 tonne of crude steel went from 50.7 % to 52.4 %, an increase due to the fact that EAF production was higher in 2006.

These rates, measured for packaging, estimated for the other products, lead us to-day to situate the global recycling rate of steel contained in equipment and consumption between 80 and 85 % in a context of very high demand for secondary materials. In the future,

data collection systems from the results measured by the Eco organisms, should allow us to improve these figures.

Markets	Steel recycling rate
Packaging	62 %
Electro appliances	75 %
Car industry	95 %
Construction	75 %

## STANDARDIZATION

The number of French standards falling within the competence of BN Acier (the Steel Standardization Office), which were published in 2006 rose to 43, slightly higher than the average observed over the last 10 years. All these standards, except one, derive from the European or the international rules (see following table). In addition, we note confirmation of the trend which began last year that most standards have been revised.

The number of European standards (prepared or informed by ECISS, the « European Committee for Iron and Steel Standardization »), approved in the field of steel products and steel processing had risen to 378 at the end of 2006. At this time the number of subjects included in the ECISS work programme was 79, or a reduction of 10 % compared to the end of 2005, including 31 new studies (39 % of the total).

The total number of meetings held by the French, European or international authorities, attended by engineers from BN Acier, was

significantly reduced in 2006, by about 15 %. However, we note that the number of meetings of international authorities has remained at an identical level to that noted in 2005.

Other meetings at which BN Acier engineers participated in 2006, relating to activities linked to standardization, were: participation in meetings of the product certification authorities (AFNOR AFAQ Certification, AFCAB, ASQPE), accreditation authorities (COFRAC), professional authorities (AIMCC, CEPMC, EUROFER) and the authorities responsible for regulation or monitoring (DGCCRF for contact with food, DG Health for contact with drinking water, GRO D PRO, the mirror authority of the Permanent Construction Committee), at which BN Acier engineers represented the steel profession. The number of these meetings remained at the same level as in 2005, but with a new increase in the number of meetings of the authorities involved in regulation.

French standards published during the last 10 years in the steel industry					
Year	Standards of French origin		Standards from foreign origin		Total
	new	revised	new	revised	
1997	4	0	14	4	22
1998	3	1	25	2	31
1999	0	5	35	9	49
2000	3	0	40	3	46
2001	3	3	20	2	28
2002	9	3	34	5	51
2003	7	1	32	10	50
2004	1	0	14	14	29
2005	0	0	17	29	46
2006	1	0	17	25	43



# FÉDÉRATION FRANÇAISE DE L'ACIER (F.F.A.)

- ▶ ▶ SPECIALIZED BODIES
  - French Technical Steelmaking Association (A.T.S.) 33 1 71 92 20 18  
E-mail: [svp.clients@ats.ffa.fr](mailto:svp.clients@ats.ffa.fr)
  - Steel Standardization Office (BN Acier) 33 1 71 92 20 19  
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- ▶ ▶ INFORMATION AND PROMOTION BODIES
  - Slags Technical and Promotion Centre (CTPL) 33 1 71 92 20 27  
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  - Stainless Development Institute
  - Technical Office for Steel Utilization (OTUA) 33 1 71 92 17 27  
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  - Revue de Métallurgie 33 1 71 92 20 34  
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- ▶ REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION
  - Professional Organization of Steel and Metallurgical Industries (GESIM) 33 1 71 92 01 31
  
- ▶ SPECIALIZED PROFESIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
  - Professional Organization of Reinforcement Producers (APA) 33 1 44 90 88 88
  - Professional Organization of Packaging Steel (CSAE) 33 1 71 92 03 25
  - Professional Organization of Fine Special Steel Producers (S.P.A.S.) 33 1 71 92 20 28  
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  - Professional Organization of French Steel Pipe Industry (SIFTA) 33 1 41 31 56 40  
E-mail : [sifta.info@orange.fr](mailto:sifta.info@orange.fr)
  - National Professional Organization of Steel Flat Products Profiling (SNPPA) 33 1 40 69 58 90
  - Professional Organization of Steel Wire Drawers (S.T.A.) 33 1 40 69 52 00  
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  - Special Steel Traders Union (UNAS) 33 1 45 00 72 50

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