



Press Release

## EUNIRPA warns against oligarchization of European steel industry

**Barcelona, 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2016. - In its second meeting, the newly established European non-integrated wire rod processors association, EUNIRPA, expressed its concern about the continued shortage of commercially viable quantities of mesh grade wire rod in Europe to serve the urgent needs of its members.**

EUNIRPA takes notice of the EU Commission's communication of 18 October to the European institutions on the future of trade policy in the EU. EUNIRPA draws the attention of the institutions and the Member States to the absolute necessity to equally take into consideration the European non-integrated user industry, which creates substantial added value in the production chain and which directly employs tens of thousands of jobs.

"Securing sufficient volumes of feedstock from a variety of sources at competitive prices is an essential condition to allow this user industry to survive in this highly competitive market" said Kris Van Ginderdeuren, President of EUNIRPA. "It is for this reason that EUNIRPA is highly concerned about the adverse consequences that a misuse of trade policies could bring to the non-integrated steel industries and in particular non-integrated wire rod processors, because this could lead to the supplies of raw material being limited to a handful of oligarchic EU producers.

Today EUNIRPA welcomed 3 new members bringing the total EU coverage to 10 countries. EUNIRPA now represents already over 50% of total European non-integrated wire rod processing capacity.

In its meeting EUNIRPA members vowed to promote the harmonization of European standards at both national and European levels. To that effect, EUNIRPA created a Technical Committee to study its future representation in ongoing discussions on this issue with all concerned authorities.