

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The Constitutional Court is for retreading

### **The Court confirms retreads on public fleets**

The Constitutional Court issued an extremely important decree for environmental protection. The 2002 Financial Act (paragraph 14 of article 52) provides for 20 per cent of public fleet spare tires to be retreads. The reason behind the resolution, says the Italian Tyre Retreaders Association (AIRP) on spreading the news, is clear. In fact, by restoring reusable tires to their use, casing disposal and waste piles can be considerably reduced.

In February 2002, Italian region Emilia-Romagna, due to matters concerning state and region jurisdiction, appealed to the Constitutional Court. The council, on stressing the state's authority to issue environmental regulations, made some very positive remarks on retreading. The Court decision, among other things, states "the importance of tire retreading since, according to statistics, it reduces tire disposal by half and at the same time fosters the employment of useful resources saving energy and money. Besides – the Court decision goes on – the retreading process also complies with EU regulations on product safety, as disclosed in 2001/507/EEC and 2001/509/EEC Resolutions of June 26, 2001, both concerning EC agreement to UNECE 108 and UNECE 109 Regulations on type approval for vehicles and trailers. In all these respects – the Court concludes – tire retreading clearly plays an important role in avoiding and reducing environmental pollution caused by tire storage, stockpiles and abatement. Therefore, article 52, paragraph 14 of 448 Regulation of 2001 is to be considered as an execution of the exclusive state legislative authority provided for by article 117, paragraph 2, and section 5 of the Constitution."

The regulation is therefore still effective and AIRP hopes all those who are required to abide by it and those who are required to enforce it actually do so.

Bologna, September 29, 2004