

## PRESS RELEASE

While oil prices are skyrocketing

### 170 million liters of oil are saved thanks to retreads

While the costs of raw materials are rising due to the Chinese and Indian economic boom, and while oil prices are skyrocketing, tire retreading saves oil and raw materials. In 2004 the retreading business helped save 170 million liters of oil, 48 thousand tons of raw materials, 280 million euros on maintenance costs and it also prevented 47 thousand tons of potentially hazardous products, namely used tires, from being dumped into landfills. These figures are according to the Italian Tyre Retreaders Association, **AIRP**.

Economic and ecological balance of tire retreading in Italy in 2004		
	Unit of measure	Total
Used tires saved from the landfill	Tons	47,000
Lower energy consumption	Million liters	170
Raw materials saved	Tons	48,000
Lower expenditure for end users	Million euros	280

Source: **AIRP**

Tire retreading helps double the life cycle of car tires and triple that of truck tires. The positive impact on the environment is so clear that Italy, like most advanced countries, protects the production of retreads and fosters their use. This environmental awareness led, among other things, to the 2002 Financial Act, which requires 20 per cent of all tires used by public fleets to be retreads. The Department of the Environment, through a decree enacted on January 9, 2003, relieved reusable tires from the heavy bureaucratic bonds of the Ronchi Decree on the environment by taking them off the "hazardous waste" list.

Retreading is widely employed in all transport sectors, including air freight. The tire retreading process is extremely accurate, technologically advanced and certified to UNECE Regulations 108 and 109, which regulate all working phases and include severe controls before and after the manufacturing process. Most Italian retread companies are already abiding by these regulations, and AIRP has been struggling to make them mandatory in Italy. This result was finally achieved on April 21, 2005, through a UE Council resolution, yet to be issued, providing for UNECE type approval to be mandatory all over Europe. By protecting consumers and by increasing road safety, this resolution discloses further interesting development prospects for a sector that has long been interested in technological innovations and that will be meeting the main garage equipment makers on coming May 18 – 22 at Autopromotec 2005 (the most credited worldwide exhibition of garage equipment and workshop tools), in Bologna.

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**AIRP**