

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **A white book on retreads is presented to the Chamber of Deputies The Government's efforts to boost retreading for a cleaner environment**

A white book on retreads, published by AIRP (the Italian Tyre Retreaders Association), was presented today to the Chamber of Deputies. Tire retreading in Italy, like in all advanced countries, is encouraged because it reduces tire disposal to benefit the environment. This is the case of Italy, where a decree enacted in 2002 requires 20 per cent of all tires used by national and public fleets to be retreads. Furthermore, in 2003 reusable tires were freed from the heavy bureaucratic procedures of the Ronchi Decree on waste disposal. The 2000/53/EC policy on scrapping of September 18, 2000 and Decree 209 of June 24, 2003, however, provide for member states to come up with solutions for tire collection and disposal within the prescribed time, favoring retreading when possible, or else the least polluting alternatives.

"By July 16, 2006 - said AIRP President Stefano Carloni on introducing the white book to the Chamber of Deputies - the landfill will be history. There are two currents of thought on this subject: the first states that this goal can be reached only through open market strategies, whereas the second opts for syndicates (just like in France, in Holland and in some Scandinavian countries). Retreaders think it is essential to recognize the retreader's key role no matter what solution you opt for. Casing selection comes first, and then come proper disposal solutions to guarantee top economic and environmental efficiency. Several options are available in this regard; therefore the sector can face other issues and institutions to outline its role."

MP Tommaso Foti, fosterer of the 20 per cent retread quota and revision of the Ronchi decree on the environment, said that it is up to the Government to foster retreading, so that the goal of recycling 80 per cent of the vehicle weight can be achieved by beginning of 2006.

MP Gianni Vernetti highlighted the general consent of all political parties on the retreading issue; this paves the way for carrying out the solutions suggested by the White Book, thus reviving the sector.

Senator Fausto Giovanelli said that all tires should be retreads, but then specific operating rules would be required. The retreading issue is anyway part of the Green Public Procurement, namely public purchasers who take into account environmental elements when buying products, services or works in the EU. Senator Giovanelli suggested opening a working table between the Department of Production Activities and the Department of the Environment to come up with the most suitable solutions to foster retreading.

In conclusion, MP Mauro Del Bue, undersecretary of Infrastructure and Transportation, said that, after comparing all the sections involved, the Government will finally consider the most adequate solutions to carry out the goals set in the end-of-life vehicle directive, using the means proposed by Decree no. 209 of June 24, 2003. The decree states that only reusable tires should be put on the market. "Retreaders - said MP Del Bue - will have a key role in any collection system we opt for, since they are the only real experts in determining which used tires can be retreaded and which ones have to be disposed of (in the least polluting way) instead." Finally, MP Del Bue said acknowledging retreading is not enough; we need to create suitable marketing conditions to boost retread sales.

Bologna, June 22, 2005

**AIRP**