

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Tire Retreaders Convention on September 16 -17, 2005, Taormina (Italy)**  
**Retreads save the environment and the economy**

All through 2004, the retreading business ensured savings of 170 million liters of oil and 48,000 tons of raw materials, as well as less costs for car drivers (280 million euros were saved) and also prevented 47 thousand tons of such potentially polluting products as used tires from being dumped into landfills.

On September 16 -17 Italian retreaders, represented by AIRP (the Italian Tire Retreaders Association) will be meeting in Taormina to discuss the problems challenging the sector. The ecological and social role of tire retreading has been acknowledged all over the world, including Italy, where, in compliance with the 2002 Financial Act, 20 per cent of all tires used by public fleets have to be retreads. However, special measures are yet to be taken to make sure that all re-usable tires are actually retreaded, much to the benefit of the environment and the economy, especially at a time when the international market is plagued with the rising costs of raw materials caused by geo-political problems and by newly arrived top-manufacturers China and India.

The AIRP Convention will be opening up with President Stefano Carloni 's report on the sector status, both from the technical and the legislative point of view. President Carloni will once again urge the Government to make Regulations 108 -109 (on type approval) mandatory in Italy just like they are already in some European countries and are soon to be all over Europe. This is essential to guarantee the reliability and safety of retreads and to protect the manufacturers already abiding by these regulations (in fact, most Italian retread manufacturers).

The Convention will also schedule the representatives of an important tire brand and will be closed by Italian MP Tommaso Foti, who fostered the 20 per cent retreading quota in Parliament, as well as the retread exemption from the muddled procedures of the Ronchi decree on environmental protection.

Bologna, September 14, 2005