

PRESS RELEASE

Over a million oil barrels were saved in 2005

Thanks to the tire retreading business

While oil costs keep riding high, there is a business that helps saving oil or all equivalent products. We are talking about tire retreading, which, according to an economic and ecological balance sheet drawn up by the Italian Tyre Retreaders Association (**AIRP**) helped Italy save 166 million liters of oil all through 2005. This amount is equal to over a million barrels and therefore to over 70 million dollars. The total saving proved to be even more significant for all those end users who opted for retreads as their replacement tires. They ended up saving as much as 290 million euros altogether.

Economic and ecological balance sheet of tire retreading in Italy in 2005		
	Unit of measure	Total
Used tires saved from the landfill	Tons	47,385
Lower energy consumption (oil and equivalent products)	Million liters	166
Raw materials saved	Tons	47,288
Lower expenditure for end users	Million euros	290

Source: Airp

Helping the country, the transportation on rubber and car drivers save money, though, is not the only positive aspect of this business. In fact, retreading helps tires last longer and keeps them away from the landfill, thus avoiding the polluting effects of dumping discards into the natural environment.

Thanks to retreading, the volume of used tires headed for the landfill decreased by 47,288 tons in 2005, much to the benefit of the environment. On the other hand, it was on behalf of the environment that the Parliament passed a regulation requiring 20 per cent of all tires used by public fleets to be retreads (Regulation 448/2001). There is no doubt that this is an important acknowledgement for the retreading business, and it needs to be stressed that retreaded tires are also extremely reliable when it comes to road safety. The UNECE Secretariat provided strict regulations for the retreading process (UNECE Regulations 108 and 109), requiring retreads to undergo the same endurance and durability tests as new tires, and it also decreed that all retreading companies be equipped with reliable quality systems.

Retreading is nowadays the rule for plane tires and is widely employed on heavy and mid-sized trucks. The Transpotec expo, coming up end of April 2006 in the new Milan Fair Trade Center, will be featuring an important meeting on April 29, namely "Road transport and retreaded tires: safety, economy and savings", which will focus on the benefits of turning more and more to retreads, and will have Fabio Montanaro, editor of the magazine "Tir", as its chairman. **Airp** President Stefano Carloni will be holding the opening speech, followed by Renato Rittel of TÜV (Germany) and the representatives of such important road transport associations as Luigi Sestieri of Anita, Maurizio Longo of Fita Can and Giorgio Colato of Albo degli Autotrasportatori.

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AIRP