

PRESS RELEASE

The case of an American haulage company boasting 2,300 trucks and 7,375 trailers **Road haulage companies take stock: tires can make a difference**

In a sector where investments show a return rate of 2, 2%, saving 1% on costs is definitely a remarkable achievement that can make the difference between profit and loss.

The talk is on road haulage, a sector currently occupying bottom place (followed only by car manufacturing) of the United States' profitable investment list (led by the banking branch with 19, 6%). On the other hand, tires guarantee a 1% saving rate of a company's total expenditure. These figures are the result of an interesting article published by Italian tire magazine **Pneurama**.

The article – points out **Airp** (the Italian Retread Manufacturers Association) – reports the case of CFI, a medium-sized American road haulage company that, starting off in 1951 with two trucks (one of which was driven by current chairman Glenn Brown), now boasts 2,300 trucks, 7,375 trailers and a turnover of over 400 million dollars a year.

Due to its well –planned tire policy, this company ends up saving as much as 4 million dollars every year (which is quite a remarkable sum) by using super-single and, above all, retreaded tires on its trucks.

CFI sets a good example - remarks **Airp** – for Italy to follow: while retreads are already widely used on Italian trucks, their employment on road haulage has to be boosted, especially because retreading cuts the volume of discards to benefit the environment. The ecological awareness in this sector is such a popular issue in the States that this country covers a 31% share of all retreaded tires worldwide. The US is also top of the list in the heavy haulage sector, with 50% of the country's spare tires being retreads, as opposed to Italy's 35%.

It must be said that Italy and Europe are discovering retreads little by little. In fact, the European directive on end-of-life vehicles sets specific regulations to stop disposal pileups by fostering recycling and, of course, tire retreading.

Italian legislative decree 209/2003 recommends recycling and retreading as the best way to cut down on disposal. This must be added to the Italian Parliament's decision to require 20 per cent of all tires used by public fleets to be retreads (Regulation 448/2001).

The benefits of turning to retreads will be the subject of an important meeting coming up on April 29 in the new Milan Fair Trade Center, during the Traspotec-Logitec expo. The meeting "Road haulage and retreaded tires: safety, economy and savings", will be chaired by Fabio Montanaro, editor of the magazine "Tir" and will be opened by Airp Chairman Stefano Carloni. Also taking part will be Renato Rittel of Tüv (Germany) and the representatives of such important road haulage associations as Luigi Sestieri of Anita, Maurizio Longo of Fita Cna and Giorgio Colato of Albo degli Autotrasportatori.

Free entry cards and invitations for sector specialists are available at: www.transpotec.com/airp .

Bologna, April 21, 2006