

PRESS RELEASE

Landfill ban close to being effective in all EU countries

225 million scrap tires to be yearly recovered for retreading, recycled or disposed of in the EU

At the end of 2006, Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden were all complying with the landfill ban regulations established by the EU. The other countries, including Italy, will have joined in by 2007.

The landfill ban, issued by the EU, yearly involves 225 million scrap tires that need to be recovered for retreading, recycled or disposed of.

These figures were disclosed by Airp (the Italian Tyre Retreaders Association)

LANDFILL BAN CHART IN EU (as of 31/12/2006)

Country	Percentage (%)
Austria	100
Denmark	100
Finland	100
France	100
Luxembourg	100
The Netherlands	100
Sweden	100
Germany	96
Portugal	95
Italy	94
Belgium	94
Great Britain	90
Greece	69
Spain	50
Ireland	19

Source: Airp chart based on Michelin figures

According to EU regulations, then, non retreadable used tires are no longer welcome in European landfills and no longer represent a hard problem for the environment (a dumped tire takes about 100 years to fully deteriorate), since countless recycling alternative uses are currently available that are absolutely environment-friendly: from granulated ground rubber, to civil engineering applications and, generally speaking, renewable energy sources.

An extremely effective solution, as we already mentioned, is the retreading process, which allows doubling a tire's life. A tire with a worn tread and a good casing is by no means a waste product, since it can be retreaded and safely employed on all kinds of vehicles. As their employment in all transport sectors (including airfreight) proves, retreads are very reliable, for they comply with extremely thorough and high-tech manufacturing procedures, certified to UNECE Regulations 108 and 109 that govern and check all production steps. Moreover, retreaded tires boast countless environmental benefits.

In 2005 retreads helped saving 166 million liters of oil and 47,288 tons of raw materials and drivers saved up to 290 million euros on fuel costs. With this very important issue in mind, the Ministry for the Environment (as per Decree of 9/1/2003) exempted retreadable used tires from the bureaucratic fulfillment of the Ronchi Decree on the environment by striking them from the waste product list. Used tires are no longer waste products, but products that –through the retreading process – can be restored to their original use, thus proving to be a great help in keeping vehicles safe and in good working order.

2005 ecologic and economic final balance for tire retreading in Italy		
	Units of measurement	Total
Used tires saved from the landfill	Tons	47.385
Lower energy consumption (oil and equivalent products)	Million liters	166
Lower consumption of raw materials	Tons	47.288
Cost savings for end users	Million euros	290

Source: Airp

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