

PRESS RELEASE

While crude oil prices hit record levels **Retreads help save 1000.000 barrels of oil yearly**

A million barrels of crude oil are saved every year thanks to retreaded tires. These statistics are revealed in the Airp (Italian Tyre Retreaders Association) economic and ecological balance sheet for tire retreading for 2006. These figures take on particular meaning in view of the record levels hit by crude oil prices. In addition, the Airp balance sheet goes on to reveal that 44,591 tons of used tires were not dumped into the environment but were in fact recovered for retreading. Furthermore, retreading helped save 45,264 tons of raw materials, while the reduction in fuel consumption totaled 158 million liters of oil and equivalent products. Tire retreading also allowed the final user to cut down on yearly tire expenses, saving as much as 291 million Euros, for a retreaded tire is definitely cheaper than a new one.

Italy's ecological and economic balance sheet for tire retreading in 2006		
	Measure Unity	Amount
Used tires not dumped into the environment	Tons	44,591
Lower fuel consumption	Million liters	158
Lower raw material consumption	Tons	45,264
Lower expenses for final users	Millions (€)	291

Source: Airp

There are therefore many advantages linked to retreads and their employment appears to be more and more necessary today, given that oil prices have been dramatically rising and no encouraging price estimates of this basic resource are to be expected, as is also the case with other raw materials saved

through the retreading process. To have a clearer outlook on the problem posed by used tire disposal, we need to think that in Europe at least 180 million tires need replacing every year, 30 millions of which in Italy alone. However, the ecological value of retreads has already been recognized in Italy even at the regulatory level. In fact, to make but an instance, the Italian Ministry for the Environment (under Decree of January 9, 2003) relieved used tires that are recovered for retreading from the bureaucratic fulfillment of the Ronchi Decree by excluding them from the waste list. The Italian Parliament then prescribed by law the obligation for public administration and public service offices to reserve 20% of their spare tire purchases for retreads. These measures are doubtlessly important, but the purchase of retreads in Italy needs to be boosted, given that the truck sector, where retreads are mostly employed, only accounts for 35% of the total domestic spare tire shipments, whereas the United States, for example, boast average use rates of 50%. Furthermore, when it comes to safety, it needs to be said that the retreading process has been performed since 2006 in accordance with UNECE Regulations 108 and 109, which introduce the same resistance, safety and durability standards for retreaded tires as for new tires.

Bologna, May 20, 2008