

## PRESS RELEASE

Savings of up to 222 million euros, 114 million liters of oil and 32,544 tons of other raw materials achieved in 2009.

### Green economy records for the Italian tyre retreading industry

32,997 tons of used tyres kept out of the environment and sent to the retread industry instead, 32,544 tons of raw materials saved, energy savings of 114 million liters of oil and equivalent products, 222 million Euros saved by final users, for a retreaded tyre is definitely cheaper than a new one. These are the main figures reported in Italy's 2009 ecological and economic balance sheet for tyre retreading by Airp (Italian Tyre Retreaders Association).

#### Italy's 2009 ecological and economic balance sheet for tyre retreading

	Measurement unit	Amount
Used tyres kept out of the environment	Tons	32,997
Energy savings	Million liters	114
Raw material savings	Tons	32,544
Cost savings for final users	Million Euros	222

Source: Airp (Italian Tyre Retreaders Association)

In Italy, highlights Airp, the already remarkable retread quota for spare tyre purchases should however rise further to level with other economically developed countries. This would allow full exploitation of the environmental and economic value of retreads and would significantly reduce energy costs and consumption for the benefit of the environment, motorists, public and private trucking companies as well as Italian oil companies.

You only have to think that about 30 liters of oil are needed to produce the rubber for one car tyre, whereas only 100 liters of oil are required for an industrial tyre. Such raw material waste can be reduced if a used tyre with intact structural integrity is retreaded.

Every year, the need to replace tyres in Europe's circulating vehicle fleets entails the need to dispose of over 220 million tyres (over 40 million tyres in Italy) with clear, potentially harmful impacts on the environment. Tyre retreading, though, allows longer tread life for new premium tyres and therefore reduces tyre waste. Basically, as we already mentioned, the retread specialist removes the worn tread from the original tyre casing that is still in perfect working conditions using extremely reliable machinery and technologies, and

replaces it with a new one. The reliability of the entire retreading process is ensured by mandatory checks in strict compliance with UNECE Regulations 108 and 109 and by the fact that retreaded tyres are widely used on such means of transport as planes, trucks and buses, where strains and mechanical stresses are higher.

For this exact reason the benefits of retreads have also been officially acknowledged in Italian legislation by the Ministry for the Environment (Decree 9/1/2003), which has exempted used tyres from waste regulations. And even the Italian Parliament has mandated the use of a 20% retread quota for public administrations and public service managers in their purchases of spare tyres.



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