
PRESS RELEASE

Costa Rican Government orders public state institutions to retread tires

On Tuesday, March 17, Costa Rica President Luis Guillermo Solís and the Minister of Health Fernando Llorca signed a decree ordering all public state institutions to retread – to a maximum of two times – the tires of all state cars.

According to Osservatorio Airp on Sustainable Mobility (Airp - *Italian Tyre Retreaders Association*), this very important decree will allow Costa Rica to reduce costs while protecting the environment. It will, in fact, generate less waste and mitigate the effects of climate change. According to an article published in local newspaper *QCOSTARICA*, the Ministry of Health will be responsible for monitoring compliance. The decree also states that public institutions should purchase only tires that can be retreaded.

The decree issued on March 17 is part of an environment-friendly political line that Costa Rica has decided to adopt. Suffice it to think that all the energy the small Central American country has been producing since the beginning of the year comes from renewable sources, mostly hydroelectric and geothermal ones. Costa Rica sets an important example – highlights the Osservatorio Airp on Sustainable Mobility –, which *could* and *should* be followed by all other countries, due to its environmental and economic importance, especially in the countries hardest hit by the economic downturn. The mandatory tire retreading regulations imposed on public institutions actually combine cost reduction with environmental protection. Despite costing less, retreaded tires are just as safe as new tires, since they undergo the same safety tests before being placed on the market, and they can actually retard disposal of scrap tires.

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