
PRESS RELEASE

The retread industry generates 32,000 jobs in the EU

Retreads account for 1.9 billion Euros in the EU's GDP

The retread industry generates 32,000 jobs in the EU (19,000 of which in the five leading EU economies, namely Italy, France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom) and accounts for 1.9 billion Euros in the EU's GDP. These figures, which refer to 2015, are taken from a study by international consulting firm EY on the socio-economic impact of tire retreading in Europe, distributed in Italy by AIRP, the *Italian Tyre Retreaders Association*. The EY study shows how important the retread industry is for European economy and how it involves – directly or indirectly – tens of thousands of retreaders, retailers and consumers (especially trucking companies). Another aspect brought into sharp relief is the enormous contribution retreads give to environmental sustainability. Compared to the production of a low-cost new tire, which is not eligible for retread, the retreading process helps save as much as 70% of raw materials and cut CO2 and particulate emissions by 24% and 21% respectively.

Despite the strategic role played by tire retreading in environmental protection though, the study laments that the retread market has considerably shrunk in the past few years. In fact, the share of retreads on the replacement truck tire market in the five leading EU economies has sunken from 37% (2010) to 30% (2015). This is due to a combination of factors, including the hardships faced by trucking companies in recession years and growing competition from the market of lower-priced new tires, which are not eligible for retread. Moreover, 3,200 retread professionals from the previously mentioned five EU countries lost their jobs between 2010 and 2015: this negative trend is likely to continue if the current market situation does not take a turn for the better.

If no action were taken, the EU would gradually lose a cost-effective resource for efficient fleet management and, above all, would end up losing its battle against air pollution. AIRP keeps striving to advertise the benefits of tire retreading, but government help must be called upon, since Italian regulations currently require a 20% share of retreads to be used as replacement tires on public fleets.

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