

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Italy is record holder in high commercial truck tire costs**

Italy is the European country with the highest commercial truck tire costs. In our country, a five-axle semi-trailer truck covering 100,000 km a year ends up spending 0,118 euros on tires per km. The rate drops to 0,098 euros in Germany, 0,088 euros in Austria, 0,078 euros in France and an incredible 0,047 in Rumania. These figures are taken from an Airp (the Italian Tyre Retreaders Association) survey based on a study carried out by the Central Committee for the National Trucking Association.

Italian haulage, remarks Airp, is already heavily penalized by the growing fuel costs, and obviously needs some price realignment so as to stay competitive in the European market. The contribution made by tires is doubtlessly important, since their incidence on operating costs is quite relevant. Two factors account for Italy's unenviable haulage cost record. The first factor is the wear and tear effect due to an obsolete and poorly maintained road system. The second factor is that very few trucks run on retreads, which are most definitely cheaper than new tires and are widely used in all advanced countries. Statistics show that only 35% of the spare tires used in Italy are retreads, as opposed to 50% in the U.S.

The money-saving contribution made by retreads can therefore be significant, without lowering safety and quality standards. Retreads, widely employed in all transport sectors, including air freight, benefit not only the economy but also the environment, since they cut back on potentially polluting scrap tire dumping in landfills. The tire retreading process is now very accurate, technologically advanced and certified according to standards that regulate the whole process and require strict control over all manufacturing steps. In fact, on September 13, 2006, the European Commission announced that all retreads sold in the EU now have to align with UNECE Regulations 108 and 109, which introduce similar standards of safety and quality control for retreads as for new tires.

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**AIRP**