

Mandatory tyre labelling for a sustainable transport

Brussels, 25th November 2009 –ETRMA and its 12 leading tyre corporate members welcome the objective of the mandatory tyre performance information requirement voted today by an overwhelming majority, of the Assembly of the 736 MEPs -with respect to fuel efficiency, wet grip performance and external rolling noise. This 2nd reading vote occurred in the plenary session of the European Parliament, after the endorsement of the text by the Council of 20th November.

The Regulation aims at increasing the safety and the economic and environmental efficiency of road transport by promoting safe and fuel-efficient tyres with low noise levels. It establishes also a framework for the provision of harmonised information on tyre parameters through labelling.

All Tyres produced after July 2012 and on sale in the EU from November 2012, either will bear a sticker or will be accompanied by a label to be displayed at points of sale. The European co-legislators have fully acknowledged the need for balanced approach on the kind of tyre performances on which information has to be given, by designing an integrated label, which provides both environmental (fuel efficiency and noise levels) as well as safety (wet braking) information.

Such information will at all times, be available for the customers through technical promotional material, including websites of the manufacturers. Are excluded retreaded tyres, off-road tyres and racing tyres.

The tyre is the only contact area with the road and therefore plays a key role for the braking performance of the vehicle. Tyre is also a major contributor to the vehicle fuel efficiency. Therefore, we are happy that these aspects are fully reflected in the regulation. The expected fuel savings from the increased use of fuel efficient tyres will indeed lead to saving an estimated 20 million tons of CO₂ per year and 10 billion EUR of fuel per year.

Fazilet Cinaralp, Secretary General, further adds that the measure will encourage tyre manufacturers to upgrade their products in a context of increased competition on the tyre market, by introducing a level playing field for all with the possibility for producers to benefit from product differentiation, not only based on prices but also on product quality. The consumers will have access to objective, reliable and comparable information on tyre parameters.

This new Regulation is a step further towards improving traffic safety and combating global warming.

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*The European Tyre & Rubber Manufacturers' Association tyre Corporate members are: **Apollo Vredestein, Bridgestone Europe, Cooper Tires, Continental, Goodyear Dunlop Tires Europe, Hankook Tire Europe, Marangoni, Michelin, Mitas, Nokian Tyres, Pirelli Tyre, and Trelleborg Wheel Systems.***