

Over 91% of end of life tyres directed towards recycling and recovery routes.

ETRMA welcomes that the market for tyre derived products has become sustainable and economically viable

ELTs 2007 data released

Brussels, 28 October 2008 – ETRMA ¹ confirms the positive trend in the European management of end of life tyres (ELTs) with a recovery rate exceeding **91% in 2007**, more than 4% compared to the previous year. This makes Europe as one of the most advanced region in the world in the recycling/recovery of tyres compared to for example Japan (89%) or Canada (80 %).

For nearly 15 years, the European rate has followed an unstopped increase of the amount of tyres entering recycling/recovery treatment options. As a result, a growing variety of new industrial and consumer's products have provided the market with innovative and performing articles, responding to an increased demand and thus contributing to create a sustainable market for tyre derived products.

In 2007, close to 3.4 million tons of used tyres were generated in the enlarged Europe.

While retreading remains unchanged (12%) and energy recovery stabilizes around 32%, the major market benefiting from the diversion from landfill is material recycling with nearly 39%, which represents a rise of 25 % over a decade.

The European tyre manufacturers interpret this realisation as an encouragement to pursue 'Producer Responsibility' strategy they initiated in the late 1990s **to anticipate** the regulatory, environmental and economic challenges imposed to Member States by the EU landfill ban ².

Concretely, 13 not-for-profit companies have been established in European countries. Backed up by a proper statutory regime, they aim to organize the collection and ecologically/economically sound treatment of end-of-life tyres.

In practice, the law assigns full responsibility to the producers (manufacturers and importers) for organising the management chain of end-of-life tyres, while a reporting obligation towards national authorities provides the assurance of a clear and reliable traceability system.

The transparency of costs for the end user is guaranteed through contributions clearly indicated on invoices. The system also enables companies to develop high-level knowledge of technologies and build up additional R&D capacities.

The extension of the scheme to a country like Italy, in 2009, will certainly mark another positive step in this direction.

The European tyre manufacturers' ambition is to further reinforce the healthy and economically viable ELT recycling market with **solid product standards** for end of life derived products in participating to the development of specific standards being currently developed at national (AFNOR, BSI, DIN, ...) and European (CEN/TC 366) levels.

The recycling of secondary raw materials will be facilitated by new provisions of **Waste Framework Directive (recently adopted, 20 Oct 08) related to the question of when a waste ceases to be a waste**. "Tyres" listed in the first priority list of the Commission. This will provide a significant boost to further development of the market for tyre derived products.

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¹ ETRMA Tyre Corporate members are Bridgestone Europe, Continental, Cooper Tires, Goodyear Dunlop Tires Europe, Marangoni, Michelin, Mitas, Nokian Tyres, Pirelli Tyre, Trelleborg Wheel Systems and Vredestein

² EC Directive 1999/31 on the landfill of waste of 26 April 1999, bans whole tyres from landfill from July 2003 and shredded tyres from July 2006

Annex 1

ELTs treatment data in 2007

UT/Part Worn Tyres/ELT's Europe - Volumes Situation 2007								
	UT	Part-worn tyres			ELT Recovery		Landfill & Unknow	UT Treated %
	Arising	Reuse	Export	Retreading	Material	Energy		
Austria (e)	53	-	-	4	15	26	8	85
Belgium	77	-	2	5	33	29	8	90
Bulgaria (e)	25	-	-	-	-	-	25	0
Cyprus (e)	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	0
Czech Rep (e)	60	-	-	3	10	30	17	72
Denmark	45	1	1	-	43	-	-	100
Estonia (e)	11	-	-	2	-	8	1	91
Finland	48	-	-	13	35	-	-	100
France	398	13	13	50	211	111	-	100
Germany	567	12	48	78	139	290	-	100
Greece	56	1	1	4	40	7	3	95
Hungary	47	-	-	1	21	25	-	100
Ireland (e)	48	-	1	3	10	-	34	29
Italy	453	10	25	68	100	180	70	85
Latvia (e)	11	-	-	1	-	8	2	82
Lithuania (e)	13	-	-	1	-	9	3	77
Malta (e)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0
NL (PC only)	58	11	-	4	34	9	-	100
Poland	194	-	-	6	46	90	50	73
Portugal	92	-	-	25	44	23	1	100
Romania	39	-	-	3	10	23	3	92
Slovak Rep	24	-	-	1	22	1	-	100
Slovenia (e)	16	-	-	1	7	-	8	50
Spain	342	71	-	41	180	49	-	100
Sweden	77	-	3	1	35	38	-	100
UK (e)	517	29	48	60	245	110	25	95
Croatia (e)	19	-	-	-	-	-	19	0
Norway	46	-	2	-	35	9	-	100
Switzerland	51	-	12	8	-	23	8	84
EU15	2 928	148	156	364	1 199	904	157	95%
	100%	5%	5%	12%	41%	31%	5%	
Europe	3 396	148	156	383	1 315	1 098	294	91%
	100%	4,4%	4,6%	11,3%	38,7%	32,3%	8,7%	

ETRMA, October 2008

Visit <http://www.etrma.org/public/activitiessoftelts.asp>