

European Tyre Manufacturers.
Commitments assumed with the EU relative to reductions in CO2
and noise levels

Brussels, 18 October 2007. ETRMA (European Tyre and Rubber Manufacturers' Association) has today delivered to the European Commissioner for Enterprise, Günther Verheugen, its letter of commitment concerning the reduction of environmental impact due to tyres and further increases in road safety.

With this document the Association, chaired by Francesco Gori, Managing Director of Pirelli Tyre, commits itself to lowering tyre noise levels by two decibels while also contributing to a reduction of up to 5 g/km in CO2 emissions caused by motor vehicle traffic. This will be achieved through a range of measures including promotion of lower rolling resistance tyres and a recommendation for the fitment of Tyre Pressure Monitoring Systems (TPMS) to all cars.

More specifically, European tyre manufacturers have undertaken to make technological advances to tyre structures and compounds in order to reduce rolling resistance, the greatest cause of higher fuel consumption and noise levels, without compromising safety performance. It must also be emphasized that a further and more significant contribution to the reduction of noise levels can be achieved by changing materials used in the construction of road surfaces.

In addition, with its letter to Commissioner Verheugen, ETRMA has emphasised that in order to achieve environmental impact reduction targets and increase safety it is necessary to intervene to prevent the importation of products into the European market that do not meet the high standards of safety expected of them

This step is the result of a voluntary commitment of the European tyre manufacturers and of various consultations between ETRMA and the main European stakeholders over the past six months. It is a significant contribution to the future Tyre regulatory framework that seeks to increase road safety and reduce harmful emissions from vehicles.