

## ETRMA Position Paper on Tyre & Road Wear Particles (TRWP) in the Plastics Strategy

The European Tyre and Rubber Manufacturers' Association is committed to contributing to a healthy environment for Europe. The tyre industry has been collaborating over the last ten years through various research projects to develop a better understanding of the fate and possible effects of particles generated during normal tyre use and wear.

Today there are still **ongoing areas of investigation addressing the fate and transportation of tyre and road wear particles (TRWP)** and their impact on the environment.

ETRMA calls for building a **solid scientific understanding**, which **should be the basis of any decision making and regulatory action**. This is why ETRMA has recently conducted a study aiming to build the necessary knowledge about the distribution and retention of TRWP in freshwater up to the estuary.

To note, the study results for two different watersheds indicate that approx. 2% to 5% of TRWP released may reach the estuary. This means there is a high potential for appreciable capture and retention of TRWP prior to reaching the freshwater or the estuary.

A manuscript presenting the study results is under preparation and will be submitted to a peer reviewed scientific Journal in May 2018.

Besides research, ETRMA has committed to conducting a **thorough assessment of the feasibility of a harmonised standard test method for tyre tread abrasion**.

However, the generation of TRWP is influenced by a variety of external factors; therefore, **policies focusing only on tyre design will have marginal effects**. ETRMA has thus committed to organize a **multi-sectorial stakeholder roundtable** to discuss options to effectively mitigate emissions of TRWP into the environment.

ETRMA welcomes the Commission's commitment to continue building a solid scientific knowledge. In addition, ETRMA calls on the Commission to nurture the dialogue with all involved stakeholders to promote the adoption of a balanced and holistic approach for the most proportionate and effective solutions.

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