

## PARLIAMENT ADOPTS PRAGMATIC STEPS TO ROAD SAFETY

**Brussels, 27 September 2011** – The European Parliament has adopted today a report *European road safety 2011-2020*, drafted by the Committee on Transport and Tourism with the coordination of the Rapporteur Dieter-Lebrecht Koch (DE - EPP).

The report which draw interest from other MEPs tabling altogether 262 amendments prior the Committee vote, addresses the new challenges and measures to improve the EU road safety over the next decade. It is widely accepted that the EU's roads must become safer: in 2009, 35 000 people lost their life on EU roads.

ETRMA congratulates the Rapporteur Dr. Koch and welcomes the European Parliament report as positively building the EU policy for safer roads. The Parliament report is commenting on and accomplishing the policy guidelines put forward by the European Commission with its Communication from 20 July 2010 *Towards a European road safety area: policy orientations on road safety 2011-2020* (COM(2010)0389).

Especially ETRMA thanks the European Parliament and the Rapporteur for putting forward tyre specific proposals, such as:

*The European Parliament,*

- *Calls on the Commission to lay down common standards for vehicle tyres, in particular for tread depth of tyres and tyre pressure, and to introduce corresponding checks; supports the inclusion of tyre checks in the regular roadworthiness tests performed on vehicles; supports more effective enforcement of tyre-related rules by means of more frequent roadside inspections; calls on the Commission to propose specifications for Tyre Pressure Monitoring Systems (TPMS) with a view to ensuring that tyres are used properly, which will bring benefits both for road safety and the environment;*
- *Calls on the Commission to draw up, within two years, a legislative proposal for a harmonised approach on winter tyres for passenger cars, buses and lorries in EU regions, taking into account the weather conditions in each Member State;*
- *Is convinced of the need for a better education of novice drivers regarding the role of tyres in road safety and the need for observing basic rules for proper tyre maintenance and tyre use; calls on the Member States, therefore, to implement in a proper and timely manner the Driving Licence Directive and the provisions therein covering mandatory inclusion of a section on tyre knowledge, as well as one on basic car maintenance in general, in the driving test exams;*

ETRMA Secretary General Mrs. Fazilet Cinaralp: *“Tyres make an essential but not well enough understood part of the road safety as a whole – they are the only contact point between the road and the vehicle and thus their first duty is to maintain the vehicle on the road. With new tyre technologies such as winter tyre, this objective can be further promoted. Congratulations to the Rapporteur!”*

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