

96% of Used Tyres Treated in Europe in 2010 *Material Recovery Increases by Further 10%*

ELTs 2010 data released

Brussels, 11 July 2011 – ETRMA, the European Tyre and Rubber Manufacturers' Association, is again pleased to report the positive trend in the management of used tyres (UT) in Europe with a recovery rate of **96%** in 2010, maintaining the high level performance already achieved in 2009.

This high recovery level is at the top of all waste streams. In the last decade, tyre industry, dealers and ELT operators have substantially improved ELT utilization. Europe has built up a real experience of 3 types of ELT management schemes, i.e. Tax model, although very limited, Free market model and Producer responsibility model. The rapid improvement of the performance of the ELT management has been reached through a sustained deployment of the Producer responsibility model in the past decade.

Last year, about 3.3 million tonnes of used tyres were managed in an environmentally sound manner. This represents 2% increase in arisings compared to 2009. After sorting out the data of those tyres going for reuse or retreading, an estimated 2.7 million tonnes of end-of-life tyres (ELTs) were left to be treated. This material flow went into a variety of recycling applications, public works and civil engineering or was used as a fuel substitute in cement kilns, boilers and power plants.

An interesting observation in 2010 is the shift in trend, i.e. growth in material recovery (+10%) and a reduction in energy recovery (-3%). In numbers, this means that 1.3 million tonnes of ELTs went to material recovery, and 1.2 million tonnes in energy recovery.

The use of tyre rubber granulate and powder is the main material recovery route (80%), followed by civil engineering applications and public works (18%), dock fenders, blasting mats (<2%) and steel mills and foundries (<1%). As regards energy recovery, the main user of ELT shreds or whole tyres remains the cement industry (92% in volume).

Fourteen (14) ELT management organizations are operating throughout Europe under the producer responsibility principle. These organizations have been set up by the tyre manufacturers. They are mandated to collect and organize the treatment of an *equivalent weight* (according to the principle 'one new tyre sold for one worn tyre recovered') of the replacement tyres sold collectively by these organizations' members. The process is financed through an environmental fee applied to the product price, regardless of the location of the collection point. Thanks to the success of the scheme, this fee is decreasing overtime. The chain is coordinated by the ELT companies, from collection to recovery or recycling, with the support of a reliable and transparent traceability or auditing system.

The publication of the ELT Decree in Italy constitutes a new opportunity for 2011. ECOPNEUS, an ELT management organization, will start operating from September 7th. In terms of UT arisings, the Italian market is the third most important country behind Germany and the UK.

ETRMA is also pleased to start reporting on UT recovery in Turkey, a country with Producer responsibility since 29 December 2009. LASDER, an ELT management organization, was set up to fulfill the obligations resulting from the law. LASDER recovered 63,000 tonnes of ELTs, fulfilling 100% of its legal obligations in 2010.

The European tyre manufacturers are committed to further reinforce the healthy and economically viable tyre recycling market in order to maximize the beneficial use of ELTs in an economic context of raw materials scarcity and price volatility.

For further information:

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