

The right tyre for the right weather conditions can improve road safety.

“Winter tyre technology significantly increases safety and mobility in winter conditions. However, we should avoid a “one-fits-all” approach across the EU. Any EU legislation on winter tyres should take into consideration the different climate conditions of European countries and regions” said Ms Cinaralp, Secretary General of ETRMA intervening at Mr Koch MEP’s Breakfast on road safety and winter tyres.

On 10 October 2012, **Dr Dieter-Lebrecht KOCH, MEP** and Vice-Chairman of the Transport Committee hosted a Policy Breakfast at the European Parliament, organised by Mobivia Groupe with the support of ETRMA. Dr Koch opened the debate by stressing that while a harmonised definition of winter tyres should be established across Europe, each country and region in Europe should decide how to legislate on the basis of the local climate conditions.

Mrs Cinaralp, Secretary General of ETRMA, agreed with his approach and stressed that winter tyre technology has proven its potential to enhance drivers’ safety and mobility in winter conditions. In this context, she called on Member States to apply the winter tyre definition set by the EU in Regulation 661/2009 - effective for new types of tyres from November 2012 - and to proceed with legislation as they judge appropriate for their countries’ climate requirements. Furthermore, Mrs Cinaralp argued that any legislation in this sense should be correctly enforced through effective controls by the national authorities to verify that proper tyres are fitted for the right season (winter tyres for winter and summer tyres for summer).

Mr Szabolcs Schmidt, Head of Unit for Road Safety in the European Commission, said that he agreed that winter tyres could improve road safety during the winter conditions and that tyres in general play potentially an important role in reducing road accidents. To this end, after the first step of establishing a definition for winter tyres, he announced that in 2013 a study will be launched to evaluate the role that tyres could have in increasing road safety. Only after this and a subsequent public consultation, the Commission will reflect on whether to start a further legislative process on winter tyres.

For further information and for the [full presentation](#) of Mrs Cinaralp, please visit our [website](#).

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About ETRMA

The current ETRMA tyre corporate members are: Apollo Vredestein, Bridgestone Europe, Cooper Tires, Continental, Goodyear Dunlop Tires Europe, Hankook, Marangoni, Michelin, Mitas, Nokian Tyres, Pirelli and Trelleborg Wheel Systems. The General Rubber Goods manufacturers are represented through national associations in Belgium (federplast), Finland (rmaf), France (snep), Germany (wdk), Italy (fgp), the Netherlands (nvr) and Spain (consorcio). The industry provides direct employment for more than 374,000 people in the EU and supports another 800000 jobs in

related sectors. ETRMA members' turnover in 2011 is estimated at €47 b, of which up to 5% is invested in R&D, annually.