

Brussels, 10 February 2012

ETRMA releases its 2011 edition of the End-of-Life Tyre Management brochure

ETRMA – The European Tyre & Rubber Manufacturers Association – has a long tradition in promoting producer responsibility in End-of-Life Tyre management throughout Europe. In this context, we have released the 2011 edition of ETRMA's End-of-Life Tyre Management brochure.

This year's report features the latest achievements in end-of-life tyre recovery and emphasizes the:

Need for harmonized EU regulatory measures to grant End-of-Waste status for ELT-derived rubber materials and casings suitable for retreading to promote a Resource-Efficient Europe

The combination of ever-spiralling energy and raw material costs and the limited availability of natural & synthetic rubber to satisfy a predicted long term increase of rubber consumption pushes the sector to better manage its sourcing of secondary raw materials in a sustainable way, especially ELT-derived rubber material. Significant improvements in resource efficiency can be met by removing bureaucratic policies regarding recycling and re-use of materials and articles.

At present, end-of-life tyre-derived products may have to be managed as waste, even if they are going to be recycled. It is also sometimes the case for casings still suitable for retreading. This is a burden, which adds significant cost over disposal and in many cases act as a barrier to improved resource efficiency. This may be resolved through pragmatic end-of-waste criteria measures.

Role of standardization in characterising materials obtained from ELTs

The implementation of a new Business Plan for CEN TC366 (Materials obtained from ELTs) to validate CEN TS14243 and develop additional ELT-related standards will contribute to a significant improvement of the level of quality of tyre derived products while opening the market to new applications, promoting technology exchanges and access to know-how and innovation and protecting the environment.

Virtues of defending and further disseminating the Producer Responsibility model for ELTs in Europe

ETRMA is very concerned about national developments triggered by economic and financial considerations which endanger the sustainability of the very model of collective producer responsibility established in Europe. This model, widely used in Europe, has largely proved its economical and environmental efficiency as demonstrates the continuous decrease of the ELT eco-contribution over the years in the countries with Producer Responsibility schemes and concomitant increase of the ELT recovery performance.

ETRMA members are committed to pursuing the promotion of their efficient strategy traceable down to the supply chain and to encourage the development of the best available techniques for the recycling and recovery of end-of-life tyres in the EU Member States and beyond.

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