

**ETRMA participates in the EIP on Raw Materials High Level Steering Group**

***The competitiveness of the European industry depends on the fair and sustainable access to its raw materials, one of which is Natural Rubber.***

**Brussels, 12 February 2013** – Mr Patrick Lepercq, President of ETRMA, participated today in the kick off meeting of the High Level Group of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Raw Materials.

ETRMA strongly supports the work of the EIP as a fair and sustainable access to raw materials is key to ensuring the competitiveness of the European Industry.

Under the initiative of Vice President Tajani (in charge of Industry), Commissioner Potočnik (in charge of Environment) and Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn (in charge of Research and Innovation) as well as Ministers, the European Investment Bank, Research Organisations and Industry CEOs gathered in Brussels. Mr Lepercq gave an overview of ETRMA's priorities and stated that *"the European tyre industry expects the EIP to encourage transparency, diversification of supply and capacity building of natural rubber to limit the current market distortions"*.

In particular, ETRMA calls for the following steps to be taken in the context of the EIP:

- **Develop partnerships for foreign direct investment** (private and public), through the creation of mechanisms that would allow for productivity increases and incite rubber production, in new as well as traditional areas. Increased cooperation **with international organisations such as African Union would be welcome;**
- **Introduce binding measures against raw material export restrictions in FTA and other trade agreement negotiations;** and address (sustainable) **access to raw materials through political bilateral discussions**, especially for example while setting up or deepening **"comprehensive partnerships"** between the EU and producing countries.
- **Promote the necessary dialogue between consuming and producing countries in all appropriate international fora**, such as the G20, and more specifically for natural rubber, the IRSG<sup>1</sup>.
- **Include Natural Rubber** in the list of **critical** raw materials.

Finally, ETRMA calls for the recommendations of the Strategic Plan that will be delivered in the summer to be translated into an immediate action plan.

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For further information, please contact Ms. Fazilet CINARALP, Secretary General  
Follow the following link: <http://www.etrma.org/activities/raw-materials>

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<sup>1</sup> International Rubber Study Group

**NOTE TO THE EDITOR – Key facts on Natural Rubber as a raw material**

- 75% of globally marketed Natural Rubber is used for tyre production.
- The totality of the natural rubber used in EU is imported and 93% of it originates from South-East Asia.
- Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand (accounting for 66% of global NR production, 73% of EU imports) have created, since 2001, a consortium with the objective of controlling the output and the price of natural rubber. This consortium has been used since 2008 to drive up the price of rubber despite the crisis. Recently, Vietnam (#3 world producer) was invited to join the Consortium.
- Whilst in EU around 39% of material from end of life tyres is recovered (this includes rubber, but also steel and fabric), recycled materials cannot be used as a substitute for natural rubber in new tyres because of technical limitations.

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**About ETRMA:** ETRMA is the leading voice of tyre and rubber goods producers in Europe. The tyre and rubber sectors employ in Europe about 370,000 people for a total turnover of €50 bn. ETRMA's tyre corporate members are Apollo Vredestein, Bridgestone Europe, Cooper Tires, Continental, Goodyear Dunlop Tires Europe, Hankook Tire Europe, Marangoni, Michelin, Mitas, Nokian Tyres, Pirelli Tyre, and Trelleborg Wheel Systems.