

## **95% of all used tyres collected and treated in Europe** *2% more recycled despite a 3% increase in arisings*

ELTs 2011 data released

**Brussels, 31 July 2012** – ETRMA, the European Tyre and Rubber Manufacturers' Association, is pleased to report that the management of used tyres (UTs) in Europe maintains its high recovery rate of **95%** in 2011, despite an increase of 3% in used tyres arisings compared to 2010.

Last year, close to 3.3 million tonnes of used tyres (incl. 430 kt of UK arisings) were managed in an environmentally sound manner. After sorting out the data of those tyres going for reuse or retreading, most of the remaining stream went into a variety of recycling, public works or civil engineering applications (material recovery) or was used as a fuel substitute in cement kilns, boilers and power plants (energy recovery).

Looking at the details of treatment routes, 2011 features an increase in material recovery (+0.5%) but a decrease in energy recovery (-2%). A more in-depth analysis of material recovery shows that whilst granulation increased by 2% and the reuse of ELTs for other purposes (dock fenders, blasting mats, ...) by 47%, there was a downturn in the use of ELTs going to civil engineering & public works applications (-10%) and a reduction of the use of ELTs in steel mills and foundries (-33%).

In terms of volume, the production of rubber granulate and powder is the main material recovery route (83%), followed by civil engineering and public works applications (14%), dock fenders, blasting mats (3%) and steel mills and foundries (0.4%). As regards energy recovery, the main user of ELT shreds or whole tyres remains the cement industry (92% in volume), followed by urban heating, power plants and boilers (7%) and pyrolysis (1%).

With ECOPNEUS operating since September 2011, there are fourteen (14) ELT management organizations working throughout Europe under the producer responsibility principle. *'This increasingly widespread system of legal framework assigns the main responsibility to the tyre manufacturers and importers themselves, leaving them to organise collectively the management of ELTs. Those involved in the industry strongly prefer this system'*, Mrs. Cinaralp, the Secretary General states, adding they describe it as a *'robust scheme that is well-suited to address long-term goals'*.

These organisations collectively manage about 60%<sup>1</sup> of used tyres arisings. The system is in general financed through an environmental fee transparently applied to the product price, regardless of the location of the collection point. The value chain is coordinated by the not-for-profit ELT organisations, from collection to final recovery / recycling, with the backing of a reliable and transparent traceability system.

Looking at the two most recently launched ELT management companies in countries with long-established free market, they have performed in an outstanding way in 2011, namely:

In Italy, in a bit less than 4 months of activity, ECOPNEUS collected and treated nearly 73 kt of ELTs, exceeding its annual ELT management obligations by 10% (in 2011, for the first year, the Italian ELT Management Decree imposed a collection & recovery target of 25% of the quantity of tyres placed on the market by its members in 2010). In Turkey, a country with Producer responsibility since 2010 with a market close to 250 kt of used tyres, LASDER collected and

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<sup>1</sup> EU27+NO+CH+Turkey

organised the treatment of about 90 kt of ELTs (an additional 25 kt compared to 2010), fulfilling 100% of its 2011 (legal) obligations.

The European tyre manufacturers are committed to further reinforce the healthy and economically viable tyre recovery in order to maximize the use of ELTs in an economical context of natural resources and fossil fuel scarcity and price volatility.

A detailed report of the UT recovery performance in Europe will be released during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2012.

**For further information:**

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