

Contact:
Carola Cotronei
Communications Manager EMEA
+32 (0)2 711 5124
carola_cotronei@goodyear.com

PRESS RELEASE

European Experts Discuss Practical Ways of Saving Fuel and Reducing Emissions in Transport

Goodyear Dunlop Symposium identifies opportunities for the transport sector including the use of aerodynamic aids.

Brussels, March 9, 2012 – Aerodynamic devices, incentives, training, low rolling resistance tires and new length regulations were among measures listed as important in reducing vehicle fuel consumption, and therefore CO₂ emissions. This was the conclusion of a panel of transport experts at a recent Goodyear Dunlop symposium held in Brussels. ‘Best Practice in Reducing Fuel Consumption’ was the subject of the discussion, which took place in front of some 70 transport executives and senior government figures.

The panelists were Marco Digioia, Secretary General of UETR (European Road Haulers Association), Benny Smets, Managing Director of Belgium-based haulage company NinaTrans, and Gandert Van Raemdonck, Researcher at Delft University of Technology.



Marco Digioia cited optimizing logistics, aerodynamic devices, road infrastructure improvements, training and tires as being important in reducing fuel consumption. Depending on the European country, between 65% and just over 95% of road haulage companies employ 10 or fewer staff¹. Digioia warned that many of these owner drivers and small operators may not have the funds or the time to modify vehicles or take part in

¹ European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions 2006.

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training. He said that more help and incentives are necessary to achieve greater savings.

Benny Smets explained that the key factor for reducing fuel consumption is the combination of different measures. Among others, which NinaTrans has in place, are tracking systems, on-board communications equipment, aerodynamic aids, engine management modifications and low rolling resistance tires. However, key to overall fuel consumption are properly trained drivers. Driver behaviour is vital and continual follow-up is essential. This is because driver performance is very good soon after eco-driving training but the gain reduces with time.

Gandert Van Raemdonck pointed out that 30% of the total operating cost of a truck is fuel – the highest single factor. Of the total power losses on a truck, 40% are down to aerodynamic drag. Results from full-scale circuit tests achieved by fitting SideWings to trailers showed a fuel consumption reduction of 5% or 1.5 l/100kms. Further research involved the fitment of tail devices to trailers. A trailer with an aerodynamic tail had reduced fuel consumption by 6% or 1.6 l/100kms. According to Van Raemdonck driver training, weight saving and tire technology are the key areas of improvement at low speeds. For long haul operations, aerodynamic add-ons, weight reduction and low rolling resistance tires are the factors. A combination of aerodynamic modifications, i.e. SideWings and a tail, on a long haul vehicle can see savings of more than 2 l/100kms with pay-back in less than two years. He added that regulations should allow fuel-saving innovations; in particular extra unloaded length should be legally permitted to allow for the use of aerodynamic aids, such as 'boat tails'.

"Many operators underestimate the important role tires play with regard to fuel consumption and therefore don't pay enough attention to the tires they choose. There is a clear message from this expert panel that low rolling resistance tires are a key factor in reducing fuel consumption." said Michel Rzonzef, Vice President Commercial Business Unit, Goodyear Dunlop Europe“.

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About Goodyear Dunlop Symposium: “Driving Fuel Efficiency in Europe’s Road Freight Transport”

On January 25 Goodyear Dunlop Europe hosted an event that saw over 170 of the continent's top commercial fleet representatives, industry leaders and transportation policy makers attend a one-day symposium in Brussels designed to open a wider debate on increased demand for more fuel efficiency from Euro's road freight sector. The symposium was built on a newly introduced report called “Driving fleet fuel efficiency: The Road to 2020”.

About The Road to 2020 Report

Goodyear Dunlop set out to learn the challenges European fleet managers are currently facing and conducted a quantitative survey of over 400 European long- and regional-haul fleet managers between September and November 2011. The survey research was supplemented by in-depth interviews with 16 fleet managers and 20 industry experts, academics and policy makers.

Respondents from the UK, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Poland and Benelux were contacted via e-mail and phone and were asked 20 quantitative questions about their experiences and opinions on managing fuel efficiency. Survey results represented a wide range of firms in the sector: 60% fleets of 1-50 trucks (these are the fleets most at risk from rising costs), 30% managed fleets of 51-250 trucks, and a tenth managed fleets above this size. Full results have been revealed at Goodyear Dunlop Fleet Symposium on 25th January 2012.

For more information on the report and to download it, visit www.fleet-fuel-efficiency.eu

About Goodyear

Goodyear is one of the world’s largest tire companies. It employs approximately 73,000 people and manufactures its products in 54 facilities in 22 countries around the world. Its two Innovation Centers in Akron, Ohio and Colmar-Berg, Luxembourg strive to develop state-of-the-art products and services that set the technology and performance standard for the industry.

Goodyear Dunlop Europe's range of tires for commercial vehicles, buses and coaches includes more than 400 different tires covering in excess of 55 sizes. Many of the world's leading commercial vehicle manufacturers fit tires from Goodyear as standard, including DAF, Iveco, MAN, Mercedes-Benz, Renault Trucks, Scania and Volvo. Goodyear also supplies tires to all major trailer manufacturers. With Fleet First, which includes the TruckForce service network, ServiceLine 24h roadside assistance, Mobility, FleetOnlineSolutions Internet management system and Goodyear Retread Technologies, Goodyear provides the broadest range of dedicated services in the industry.

For more information on Goodyear and its products, visit www.goodyear.com.