



## Tyre labelling deal ready to roll

**In three years all new tyres on sale in Europe will be classified and labelled for fuel efficiency, wet grip and noise performance. On Thursday EP Industry Committee and Council negotiators reached a political agreement on a labelling system similar to that used for household appliances.**

"The new labelling system is a straightforward measure with great advantages for the environment and the consumers", said rapporteur Ivo Belet (EPP, BE), adding that the cost to manufacturers should be minimal.

### **Fuel efficiency, wet grip and noise**

Like the European energy label, the tyre label will use classes ranging from best-performance (green "A" class) to worst (red "G" class). Besides indicating how much the tyre affects the car's fuel efficiency, it will also give information about its performance in wet conditions and its external rolling noise in decibels.

From 1 November 2012, suppliers of tyres for passenger cars, light and heavy duty vehicles (C1, C2 and C3 tyres) will have to inform consumers about fuel efficiency, wet grip and noise classes in any technical promotional material, including web sites. Re-treaded tyres, off-road professional tyres and racing tyres will be exempt from this requirement.

All C1 and C2 tyres produced after 1 July 2012 must either have a sticker or be accompanied by the label when distributed from the factory to a shop or a garage.

Unlike household appliances, tyres are not always on display in the shops, so MEPs insisted that retailers be obliged to show the label to the buyer before the sale and also on, or with, bills.

### **Very quiet tyres**

To promote very quiet tyres, the Parliament negotiated a re-design of the noise pictogram. The level of external rolling noise will be indicated by ascending numbers of black "waves" emitted from the "speaker". Quiet tyres for cars (producing noise below 68 decibels), for example, will be labelled with one white and two black "waves" next to the value in decibels.

### **Incentives for fuel-saving and safe tyres**

Potential incentives to promote better-performing tyres to consumers would be decided at national level. In principle, Member States would be allowed to provide incentives only for tyres ranked at least "class C" on fuel efficiency and wet grip.

### **Label components and fuel savings calculator**

The Commission undertook to put explanations of each tyre label component and a fuel savings calculator on its website by June 2012.

### **Further steps**

The compromise text agreed on Thursday still has to be formally approved by the Council before the full House gives its final endorsement.

# Press release

**Contact :**

**Janez VOUK**

Press service

E-mail: [indu-press@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:indu-press@europarl.europa.eu)

BXL: (32-2) 28 31053

STR: (33-3) 881 74897

PORT: (+32) 498 98 33 37