



### **First International Retreading Congress in Santiago de Chile**

ARNEC, the Chilean Retreading Organisation, organised on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017 the first international Retreading Conference in Santiago de Chile and to say it right at the beginning, they did a fabulous job. The event took place in the Salón del Parque de Casa Piedra, Vitacura, Santiago, an excellent location with a very professional frame organisation (e.g. translation services, shuttle transport, ...). There have been certainly various reasons to initialise and set up a platform for the exchange of information and discussions between the retreading and recycling industry, new tyre manufacturers, fleets and politics: At first the new legislation and initiative of the so called Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), demanding of manufacturers and producers of new tyres to prepare provisions for the whole lifecycle of a tyre, from cradle to grave so to speak. Taking into consideration that obviously 90% (!) of the worn tyres in Chile “disappear” to nowhere, a major goal for the future and that the impact of cheap, mostly not retreadable Chinese tyre imports seems to be even worse than in Europe, with Latin America (with the exception of Brasil as biggest market) being one of the last areas without Anti-Dumping or Anti-Subsidy regulations.

But also to develop a kind of quality standard for the production of retreaded tyres raising the awareness of new production and quality control processes among the retreaders themselves and to document to the end-user, society and politics that it is a “serious matter” of the industry to establish retreading as one the most sustainable ways to extend the “life cycle” of a tyre.

And last but not least the attempt to create a “union” between the actors of retreading, recycling, consumer and politics to get the maximum drive for the sake of the environment and society.

In the two day event ARNEC did very well to take the first step in this direction: All related parties had been invited and supported the event: The retreading/tyre associations of Latin America (ANRE Ecuador, ANRE Colombia, CURN Uruguay, ARAN Argentina, ABR Brasil and the “roof organisation” ARARNEU Latin America) as well as the new tyre industry association CINC were present to inform about their markets and the challenges they are facing and their views how the “life cycle” scenario could look like. Also guests from the US (TRIB), Europe (BIPAVER) and the international magazine Retreading Business participated to give an impression about their markets and possible ways how the retreading industry could be supported and move forward. Political representatives of the relevant resorts like Environment, Energy, Climate and Sustainability of Chile were expressing their intend to support and develop a reliable trustable solution together with all involved parties, also keeping an eye on the CO2 footprint of the country. An impressive respond of politics in relation to the struggle we face in Europe or the US to raise attention for our industry!

And on the other side representatives of big fleets and public transport companies had the chance to point out their experiences with retreads and their demands and expectations to the tyre and

retreading industry in exchange with local retreading companies (e.g. INSAMAR, AA Renovados) promoting their evolution in production standards and quality. Supported by a study of the University of Florida highlighting the possibilities to reduce energy consumption, CO2 emissions and cost by implementing modern production technologies (e.g. cushion to casing extrusion and a production without cement/dissolution) but also by the retreading process as such compared to a production of new tyres.

Alternative or final recycling possibilities were discussed with delegates of recycling and cement industry touching the burden of casing collection and transport with the associated organisation and cost as main challenge in a country with huge distances like Chile.

To summarise the International Retreading Congress in Santiago de Chile has been an impressive first step to focus on the challenges of the tyre, retreading and recycling industry and to get all relevant parties connected to each other. BIPAVER would like to congratulate ARNEC, specially Eduardo Acosta, President and Daniel Rojas Enos, General Manager and main organiser of the congress, for this professionally organised event and to thank ARNEC for the opportunity to participate and the warm welcome into the team. An international exchange over countries and continents is certainly a valuable way to learn and take mutual profit of the experiences and solutions of other markets. Therefore BIPAVER has invited all participants and associations to visit the Global Retreading Conference the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at The Tire Cologne and hopefully there will be a successful “follow-up” for the retreading and recycling industry in Chile and Latin America in next years to come.

For more information about the event or a copy of the individual presentations please contact [info@bipaver.org](mailto:info@bipaver.org).

Michael Schwämmlein for BIPAVER



The delegates of BIPAVER, Michael Schwämmlein, Retreading Business Magazine, David Wilson, President of ARNEC, Eduardo Acosta and TRIB, David Wilson





Networking at the Retreading Congress in Chile



Representatives of Politics, Retreading Industry and ARNEC at the Congress



BIPAVÉR's presentation about the situation and challenges of the Retreading Industry in Europe