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### “Mixed” progress on dealing with EU tyre landfill ban

By Christopher Cundy

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*European countries have until 2006 to implement systems to dispose of tyres.*

1 November 2004 – European countries have made mixed progress towards dealing with the 2006 ban on the landfilling of rubber from waste tyres.

Speaking at the Bureau of International Recycling’s conference on Friday, John Dorken, director of the British Rubber Manufacturers Association, said several countries faced an uphill struggle to meet the July 2006 deadline imposed by the EU landfill directive.

Some countries, particularly in Scandinavia, have had 100% recovery for some time, and others such as France and Germany are making good progress.

However, Spain (40% recovery) and Poland (57% recovery) are lagging behind. “They will really need to get their socks pulled up is they are going to comply in time,” Dorken said.

In an ideal world, Dorken said, all European countries would have the same system for dealing with tyres. While certain countries still operate a “free market” for dealing with the waste, he said tyre manufacturers will continue to push for statutory producer responsibility. “In most states producer responsibility schemes are expected to be in place by 2006.”

Dorken said that demand for granulated tyres was growing and that the market was at present “remarkably buoyant”. A major issue is the uptake of tyres in cement kilns, where granulate has enormous potential to replace conventional fuels such as coal. “Road surfaces are a great untapped market,” he added.

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