

PRESS RELEASE

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(begin press release)

UETR welcomes ASSOTIR from Italy

At UETR's General Assembly of December 4th, the organization of European road haulers welcomed a new member. ASSOTIR is the third Italian road haulage association to join the UETR.

ASSOTIR was founded in 2005 and merged with Transfrigoroute Italia in 2006. Some 3.000 members are associated to this organization, representing a fleet of about 20.000 vehicles. Its head office is located in Rome, where ASSOTIR is officially certified by the Italian government within the Albo. ASSOTIR's president Ana Vita Manigrasso about the membership to UETR: "We are looking forward on intensifying our lobby-activities in Europe. The majority of road transport regulation is negociated and established in Brussels, before it can be dealt with in our own country. In this respect, joining the UETR is a logical step to participate on a more European level."

It goes without saying that UETR-president Dagmar Wäscher is delighted with the membership of a new organization. "It gives me great pleasure that UETR is able to welcome a new organization. It confirms the ever growing impact of UETR. It will also give us extra strength and power to pursue more vigorously our efforts in a huge number of European matters. The road transport business in Europe is faced with quite a number of challenges, such as the (expected) growth in road transport and its impact on the environment and road infrastructure. With the added membership of ASSOTIR, we now represent even more SME's. This will surely give us an extra tool to further improve and intensify our roll as pressure group.

(end press release)

UETR is the European umbrella organization representing and defending the interests of more than 205.000 road transport undertakings (mostly Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) from Western and Eastern EU Member States federations, with a total capacity of more than 450.000 commercial vehicles. Within the Union, 95% of the road haulage companies are micro-enterprises with less than 10 employees (small firms or one-man operations). For more information visit <u>www.uetr.eu</u>
