



Global Compact 2007

The **Trèves** Group, an automotive equipment manufacturer specialising in interior trim and acoustical protection, is intent on continuing its initiatives to foster sustainable development, in line with the principles of the Global Pact and the policies of France and the European Community.

Trèves is currently stepping up its efforts to develop environmentally-friendly products throughout the group, with all associated projects henceforth supervised by an operational department specifically devoted to sustainable development and which reports its activities to the group's different business units.

A primary implication of sustainable development is the replacement of fossil fuels by renewable resources. The limited availability of fossil resources and their associated environmental hazards are now recognised facts.

Trèves' Brazilian subsidiary is already successfully producing rear shelves for the Clio (Renault), reinforced by vegetable fibres (jute). This progressive concept is now being generalised in a project to develop and produce, in France, new structural components reinforced with hemp fibre. The project is financially supported by the French government, via the scientific interest group AGRICE which fosters the use of agricultural resources in industrial sectors.

Trèves is also greatly extending the use of felt in its sound absorption products. The use of this material, well known for its environmental advantages, has been increasing by close to 30% annually. This trend is expected to continue as felt-based techniques are being employed in the design and development of all new sound absorption products.

The range of products marketed by **Trèves** includes a certain number of components based on polyurethane, a material produced from petroleum derivatives (polyalcohol in particular). A project was initiated in 2006 to study the replacement of petroleum-derived polyalcohol by crop-based polyalcohol. The project, supported by the 'Champagne-Ardenne Competitiveness Cluster' (a French government establishment), is presently undergoing a feasibility study with an industrial partner (Novance) and an institutional partner (ITERG).

Recycling, also an extremely important element of sustainable development, is the subject of an ambitious European policy in the automotive field in the form of a directive relating to end-of-life vehicles (ELV) providing for an 85% recycling rate by 2015.

Accordingly, **Trèves** is presently setting up production structures to recycle its manufacturing waste and end-of-life products. An example of this is a new project, for a Japanese carmaker, to produce sound absorption components for passenger compartment floors from compressed recycled foam scraps. Following a feasibility study confirming the economic interest and technical merits of this approach, **Trèves'** UK site is expected to produce, by the end of 2007, some 300 tonnes of recycled foam per year, of which a third will be obtained from the group's production waste.

With these projects - a large number of which are already at the manufacturing stage - **Trèves** is demonstrating its resolve to act as a socially responsible company, in the knowledge that in doing so, it will ensure the group's continued existence.