

PRESS RELEASE

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CLEPA bolsters National Association Memberships

This March, **CLEPA welcomed the Polish Association of Automotive Parts Distributors and Producers (SDCM)** to its membership.

The association was founded in Warsaw in 2005 to protect the interests of automotive parts distributors and suppliers, and to ensure adequate representation towards policymakers, local stakeholders and international organisations.

Speaking at CLEPA's General Assembly on March 18th, *CLEPA President Roberto Vavassori* said, *"We are proud to welcome another national association to our ranks, especially one as important as SDCM. Poland is the third largest automotive employer in Europe, therefore SDCM's inclusion adds significant clout to CLEPA. This is both a necessary and crucial step forward for the European automotive industry"*.

SDCM has approximately 100 members, including 63 parts manufacturers and 34 parts distributors. More than 20 CLEPA Corporate Members are represented within SDCM, including Bosal, Brembo, Delphi, Denso, Gates, Hella, Mahle, Robert Bosch, Schaeffler, SKF, Sogefi, Tenneco, TRW, Valeo and ZF.

"It was very important for us to have a Polish representative in our organisation, since the automotive spare parts and components industry has a very strong position in this country. We are glad that SDCM become our member, since for years it's been working for the benefit of the Polish automotive industry", said CLEPA CEO Paul Schockmel.

SDCM has also been a member of FIGIEFA since 2007 and actively supported initiatives such as ECAR (European Campaign for the freedom of the Automotive Parts and Repair Market) and AFCAR (Alliance for the Freedom of Car Repair in the EU).

Note to Editors

CLEPA is the European Association of Automotive Suppliers. 116 of the world's most prominent suppliers for car parts, systems and modules and 23 National trade associations and European sector associations are members of CLEPA, representing more than 3 thousand companies, employing more than 5 million people and covering all products and services within the automotive supply chain. Based in Brussels, Belgium, CLEPA is recognised as the natural discussion partner by the European Institutions, United Nations and fellow associations (ACEA, JAMA, MEMA, etc.).

Facts about the European automotive industry

- Some **12 million** people are employed in the European automotive industry
- European automotive suppliers directly employ **5 million** people
- European automotive suppliers invest **€18bn** in RDI per year. They are one of the biggest private investors into research and innovation
- Per year, **16 million** vehicles are manufactured in Europe, contributing to the stability and growth of the European economy

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