

Sigrid de Vries Secretary General



In a year where being in crisis mode became the 'new normal', the CLEPA secretariat consolidated its role as the proactive voice of the automotive supply industry and further solidified itself as a trusted advisor for its members.

With the COVID-19 pandemic being far from over, the shortage of semiconductors becoming a permanent feature, and pressure points on the globalised organisation of the supply chains mounting even before the war in Ukraine broke out, 2021 posed yet another set of serious challenges to the automotive industry, impacting the focus and priorities of CLEPA as well.

Building on the direction taken in 2020, the secretariat has continued to work in a highly lean and mean fashion, while strengthening competence and clout in areas of major importance.

While the main advocacy and technical regulations efforts continued to focus actively and assertively on the policy files related to the EU Green Deal, or in EU speak the 'Fit-for-55 package', and related to digitalisation, with dossiers like access to data, artificial intelligence and vehicle automation, the team also expanded its scope with topics like 'strategic autonomy' including industrial policy for semiconductors, and sustainability, including dossiers like taxonomy and due diligence.

It reaches too far to list all files covered by the CLEPA team in the space of this foreword. The report of activities, however, will leave you with a good impression and serves to invite deeper interest and exchange with both our members and stakeholders.

I am proud to say that the CLEPA team has significantly stepped up its role with a proactive voice representing the needs and legitimate interests of the supplier industry in Europe, and of being a timely and trusted advisor to its members. Both in terms of strategic communications as well as in terms of delivering key intelligence on sector trends and sector importance, CLEPA has become the reference point it needs to be.

This is visible, for example, in the topical publications, the regular on-line CLEPA Plaza sessions, the dedicated reports – of note is the study on the employment impact of electrification - and media and social media outreach. But it is illustrated also, again as an example, by the Foresight Forum which CLEPA started, to initiate timely and crucial exchange by members and with stakeholders on the key technological developments defining the future of smart, sustainable, and safe mobility.

CLEPA is set firmly on course to continue adding targeted value to members, stakeholders and the policy framework at large. In times of on-going crisis, exemplified by extraordinary pressure on the sector, a trade association's role as a stronghold and lighthouse to help navigate the choppy waters is even more essential. The team cannot do this without its dedicated, representative and engaged membership. CLEPA has welcomed again new members in its midst, including players with activities in the 'newer' mobility areas. This is part of our strategy and signifies both agility and continuity.

I take this opportunity to give a big 'thumbs up' to the CLEPA team, to thank the CLEPA membership for their continued support and to wish you interesting reading. We welcome your feedback!

Sigrid de Vries