



Brussels, 28 November 2014

CLEPA 6th Aftermarket Conference
“The Challenge of Connectivity in an evolving Aftermarket”

On 26 and 27 November 2014, more than 230 representatives from the automotive industry and other stakeholders attended in Brussels the sixth edition of the CLEPA Aftermarket Conference. This event, the first of its kind in Europe, is the annual gathering between the executives in this sector and policy makers.

“I am pleased to see so many of you here tonight. This demonstrates that the aftermarket is a vibrant and strategic sector for the automotive suppliers”, said Mr Arnaud de David-Beauregard, CLEPA President, opening the networking dinner organized the evening before the conference.

Michael Gassen, President Delphi Europe, Middle-East and Africa, in his keynote speech entitled “The future is now” gave an overview on how Delphi anticipates challenges and opportunities in light of the rapidly changing automotive industry and how Delphi's safe, green and connected technology portfolio can make a difference. *“Anticipation... innovation... execution. That is a formula for success, regardless of what the future brings.”*

The automotive aftermarket is worth €100bn of sales. Carmakers and automotive suppliers are both committed to ensure repair and maintenance of the European vehicle population.

“The cars today are computers on wheels. Competition in the aftermarket will increase investments in hard- and software and connectivity is key for future developments and new business models”, said Mr Paul Schockmel, CLEPA CEO.

The conference's topics of this year's edition were: The Challenges of Connectivity for politics and users; Vehicle Connectivity in an evolving Aftermarket; Private Equity and the Automotive Aftermarket.

“The challenges ahead for the aftermarket operators need to be clearly analyzed by policymakers who need to set a predictable regulatory framework. Despite the demanding environment automotive suppliers manage to continue their growth path. In such a complex market our members firmly stand for fair competition which will result in favorable conditions for consumers”, stressed Mr Paul Schockmel, CLEPA CEO.

The CLEPA Aftermarket Conference is the traditional get-together of the Automotive Aftermarket in Brussels and has been gathering an increasing number of participants since its beginnings in 2009. The 7th CLEPA Aftermarket Conference will take place on 26 November 2015.

Note to Editors

CLEPA is the European Association of Automotive Suppliers. 110 of the world's most prominent suppliers for car parts, systems and modules and 24 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 recognized 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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