



C L E P A
*European Association of
Automotive Suppliers*

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PRESS RELEASE

First CLEPA Automotive Aftermarket Conference
held in Brussels on 19 November 2009

More than 160 participants from the Industry, Trade, Workshop networks, as well as representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament, EU Member States and the Press followed the invitation from CLEPA.

The Conference focused on:

- the future automotive technologies and the effects of the crisis for the aftermarket;
- the future oriented aftermarket business strategies, with perspectives from an independent warehouse distributor, a parts supplier and a vehicle manufacturer;
- the challenges for the future aftermarket due to new technologies with electronics (computer on wheels) and the right parts for the aging car park (e.g. remanufacturing).

After each of these sequences, the Heads of Unit of Antitrust and Automotive from the European Commission spoke about the European Commission's role as a regulator and what impact this has on the European aftermarket.

One of the highlights was the result of a market survey, carried out by A.T. Kearney prior to the conference with 70 senior managers from Industry and Trade.

This study concludes that a full recovery will take more than 36 months, demand for low-cost specification is increasing, the Independent Aftermarket Channel is clearly expected to benefit from the crisis and in addition to "typical crisis measures"

companies focus on opportunities capturing and intensification of competitive strategies.

The balancing act for all aftermarket players is on 2 levels: firstly, the competition between the vehicle manufacturers and the independent operators and secondly, the vehicles with most modern technology for the Euro 5 models and the need for fair value parts for older cars.

Aside from inspiring presentations, a very lively discussion made this conference a success.

The actual Conference was preceded by a networking evening in "Belgian Style" with European Commission Vice-president Günter Verheugen, who is the outgoing Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry, delivering a key note speech.

CLEPA CEO Lars Holmqvist praised the two-term European Commissioner for his understanding of industrial needs during his mandate in Brussels.

Following this successful conference, CLEPA envisages to make this Aftermarket Conference a regular event.

For more information, please contact Mr. Josef Frank, CLEPA Director Aftermarket, +32 2 743 91 27, j.frank@clepa.be

CLEPA is the European umbrella membership organisation representing the interests of the global automotive supply industry. 83 of the world's most prominent suppliers for car parts, systems and modules and 28 National trade associations and European sector associations are members of CLEPA, representing more than 3,000 companies, employing more than three 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).