



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

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PRESS RELEASE

**Third CLEPA Automotive Aftermarket Conference
held in Brussels on 24 November 2011**

About 200 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.

This year's conference included presentations from high-level speakers and panellists on:

- Megatrends in the supply-chain of the automotive aftermarket.
- What makes consumers choose a workshop?
- The importance to develop and promote **remanufacturing**.
- The **necessity** of access to repair and maintenance information to keep a level playing field.
- The internet and its relevance for the aftermarket.

The automotive aftermarket is huge and still profitable however the competition between car manufacturers and independent operators will become tougher. New technologies and changing consumer behaviour will bring other business models influenced by the internet, electronics and remanufacturing on one hand and new players on the other hand. In consequence we can state that a level playing field is a must.

Therefore CLEPA expressed at their conference 2 important messages:

1. **Remanufacturing** is a core business of many CLEPA members. Therefore it is crucial to clearly communicate the technical expertise and know-how that is involved in the remanufacturing process done by our members. In consequence we need to differentiate remanufacturing against non-technical methods which are often wrongly referred to as remanufacturing. Therefore **CLEPA invited all stakeholders to elaborate a cross industry definition for remanufacturing**, valid for both the OES and IAM business, based on the rules of the Automotive BER 461/2010 using the definitions of "OE Quality" and "Matching Quality". CLEPA looks forward to receiving proposals for cooperation!
2. CLEPA **strongly urges the car manufacturers to put in place the availability of their technical information to all independent operators**. It is of an utmost importance that this "Repair and Maintenance Information" (RMI) and

unequivocal parts identification are available in an appropriate form for all channels in the automotive aftermarket to ensure fair competition amongst all market players and to give the many SMEs in the business a chance for surviving these challenging times.

CLEPA counts on the European Commission to severely check the compliance of the concerned “Euro 5” regulation and Competition law on this matter and is confident that **the European Commission and other stakeholders will also undertake the necessary actions to make the car manufacturers fulfil the legislation.**

Aside from inspiring presentations and a frank exchange of views among the panellists, very lively discussions incorporating the auditorium made this conference a success.

The actual Conference was preceded by a networking evening with more than 160 leading figures from industry and politics with a key note speech from Mr. Ignacio Garcia Bercero, Director DG Trade from the European Commission, who is responsible for Sustainable Development, Bilateral Trade Relations (South Asia, South East Asia, Korea, Euromed and Middle East). Furthermore he is the Chief Negotiator for the EU-Korea and EU-India Free Trade Agreements, on which he elaborated.

Following this successful 3rd aftermarket conference, you can save the date for the 4th CLEPA conference on 29 November 2012 with a dinner on the eve at the same place.

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



The eSafety Challenge project which promotes advanced vehicle safety technologies, was delighted to join the 2011 Aftermarket Conference.

The eSafety Challenge focuses on innovative vehicle safety technologies and the potential lives to be saved on the roads through increased deployment of these technologies.

The project has received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2011) under grant agreement n° 249021.

For more information, contact [Mr. Wolfgang Lange](#), CLEPA Communications Officer , Tel.: +32 2 743 91 21 or visit the [project website](#).

CLEPA is the European umbrella membership organisation representing the interests of the global automotive supply industry. 84 of the world's most prominent suppliers for car parts, systems and modules and 26 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).