

CLEPA weighs in to promote reman

CLEPA, the European, Brussels-based umbrella organisation that represents more than 3,000 companies in Europe's automotive supplier industry, is significantly stepping up its efforts to promote automotive remanufacturing.

One such initiative is CLEPA's recent provision of a definition of remanufacturing to the European Commission, advising them on the importance of remanufacturing. It is hoped that the document will form part of the forthcoming negotiations on a future foreign trade agreement (FTA) with India and Korea. Prior to the negotiations, the Commission had asked CLEPA for information on the importance of remanufacturing to the EU. As part of its response, CLEPA submitted the following definition of remanufacturing:

"A remanufactured product fulfils a similar function to the original part. It is manufactured using a standardized industrial process in line with specific technical specifications. The industrialized process incorporates defined core management standards. A remanufactured spare part is warranted as a new spare part."

- The European automotive remanufacturing business is worth approximately 6 billion Euros (retail sales)
- 32,000 EU citizens are employed in automotive remanufacturing
- Remanufacturing is a sustainable development activity. Less energy intensive than the manufacture of new parts, it can result in a yearly energy saving of 8.4 millions tons of CO₂.
- The business enables consumers to exercise an environmental choice in their selection of a replacement part.
- Remanufactured products are more cost effective to produce because previously used parts are employed in their production - allowing economic benefits to be passed on to the consumer.



Josef Frank – Director Aftermarket, CLEPA



CLEPA's recent Technology Day exhibition in Brussels featured a special section on automotive remanufacturing.

In two further initiatives, CLEPA recently organised a reman area at its Technology Day 2009 on February 11 at Autoworld in Brussels. In addition, and perhaps more importantly in the longer-term, CLEPA has set up a remanufacturing working group to consider further means of promoting remanufacturing.

Working Group

"The aim of the working group on remanufacturing is to underline the importance of the remanufacturing industry because all major suppliers that sell product lines suited to remanufacturing are part of the aftermarket sector," Josef Frank, Director Aftermarket, CLEPA, told ReMaTecNews. "This, in turn, means that remanufacturing is becoming a core business for CLEPA's members. Another aim of the working group is to create a definition and specify the different processes involved in remanufacturing."

"In submitting our presentation to the EU Commission we wished to draw attention to the fact that remanufacturing is a highly sustainable activity which is less energy intensive than the manufacture of new parts and


'The aim of the working group is to underline the importance of the remanufacturing industry'

can achieve annual energy savings of 8.4 million tons of CO₂. CLEPA promotes remanufacturing activities as an industrial activity - it is certainly not just part of the scrap trade.


Trade negotiations


"At the same time, remanufacturing plays a role in free trade agreements between the European Union and non-EU countries such as South-Korea and India. Since remanufacturing is a 'two way street activity', producing new parts and bringing back the cores is relevant in terms of customs. CLEPA's interest is that remanufacturing is considered as a real business. When you deliver a remanufactured product, you invoice the product and the core. If people then send the core back, they get the part of the core paid back by a credit note. However, in the majority of countries, cores are not allowed to be returned. CLEPA wants to change this and customs has to take this into account."



During the CLEPA Technology Day one of the booths was a joint Aftermarket Initiative, also showing and promoting remanufactured products, demonstrating their contribution to the environment.



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