



European
Automobile
Manufacturers
Association



Nicolas Schmit,
Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights
European Commission

Brussels, 8th July 2020

Dear Commissioner Schmit,

We are writing to you on behalf of the automotive equipment and tyre suppliers, vehicle manufacturers and dealers and workshops (ACEA, CECRA, CLEPA, ETRMA). As you certainly may know, we have come together in May 2020 to list 25 Actions that would help the industry towards a smooth and strong recovery, in the aftermath of the COVID-19 Crisis.

Of these actions, two were specifically focused on the skills needs of the industry and particularly to support up- and re-skilling of the labour force, calling for the establishment of a sectoral Skills Pact for the automotive sector.

The Communication a *European Skills Agenda for Sustainable Competitiveness, Social Fairness and Resilience* is a much welcomed step in this direction and the entire automotive value chain looks forward to work closely with the Commission on its implementation.

In particular, the **four associations support the road towards a Skills Pact**, which we hope will support the automotive sector to work with a clear agenda to boost the availability in the labour market and in the workforce of emerging skills needed to enable the sector green and digital transition.

The **industry warmly welcomes the reference to the need to set up large-scale partnerships** to work on priority areas within the framework of the Green Deal and the sector's digital transition. In this context, it is paramount that any such initiative concerning the automotive sector will be based on the work and scope of DRIVES¹. This EU-funded project has been looking at the core skills challenges of the sector providing the backbone for all further work in this sense and will provide a basic implementation Framework for the automotive sector.

Skilling and up-skilling of the existing workforce and bridging the skills gap between the needs of the industry and the training offer is of utmost importance at all levels of education.

Bringing in the new needed skills and retraining the current workforce are two challenges which the sector cannot master alone. In this sense an initiative for a sectorial up- and re-skilling framework for the automotive value chain maximising industry competitiveness, job retention and new job opportunities would be a welcomed – as also underlined by the first release of the DRIVES Roadmap.

¹ Development and Research on Innovative Vocational Educational Skills project ([DRIVES](#)) works on delivering human capital solutions to the whole automotive supply chain through the establishment of an Automotive Sector Skills Alliance, covering all levels of the value chain (vehicle production, automotive suppliers and automotive sales and aftermarket services). The project is Funded by the Erasmus+ Sector Skills Alliances Programme with a budget of €3,987,590



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The voice of European vehicle dealers and repairers



European Association of Automotive Suppliers



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Finally, as recognised by the Communication, **these initiatives need to be supported by consequential financing**. This would require the mobilisation of existing and new large-scale public-private funds that will support re/upskilling acceleration. All existing European funding should be rapidly assessed and allow to support these efforts (e.g. European Social Fund, EIB etc.) to facilitate structural changes in the sector.

We stand ready to take the next steps together with the Commission as soon as possible and will contact your services to agree on the best way to proceed.

Yours sincerely,

Eric-Mark Huitema,
Director General
European Automobile Manufacturers' Association
(ACEA)

Bernard Lycke,
Director General
European Council for Motor Trades and Repairs
(CECRA)

Sigrid de Vries,
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Association (ETRMA)