



*Mobilians – M. Xavier Horent
ZDK – M. Arne Joswig
BOVAG – M. Peter Niesink
TRAXIO – M. Henri de Hemptinne*

Brussels, 28th of January 2025

Ursula von der Leyen
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1040 Brussels
Belgium

Dear President of the European Commission Ms Ursula von der Leyen,

As the European Commission has just been officially appointed, we would like to extend our congratulations to you on the renewal of your appointment. We wish you the warmest success in a particularly uncertain economical and international context, which makes it even more crucial to succeed in the transformations our European community is facing.

As you are aware, the automotive sector is at the forefront of this global shift, which is remarkable for its intensity, scope, and speed. In this context, you recently announced your decision to establish a "Strategic Dialogue on the Future of the European Automotive Industry", which will officially be launched on the 30th of January 2025.

In support of your initiative, we would like to draw your attention to the importance of adopting a 360° approach to fully cover the entire automotive ecosystem. Indeed, this ecosystem, far from being limited to industrial actors, also includes all companies in automotive distribution and mobility services. We believe it is quintessential for our sector to be a part of the strategic dialogue.

The sales and maintenance sector accounts for 4.5 million jobs in the EU, making it the largest sector of employment in the European Automotive sector, with a presence across all European regions. With great care for customer service and expertise, we are the direct link to the customer and are the key factor to push sustainable mobility. With 150.000 apprentices in the undersigning countries alone, we also secure employment and expertise for the generation to come.

As we had already the opportunity to mention to the cabinet of the Commissioner for Transport, Mr. Apostolos Tzitzikostas, we have the honor to present you the official candidacy of our organizations for the senior steering group that you will establish under your leadership.

Our participation would represent the entire downstream automotive sector, particularly companies involved in automotive distribution and mobility services. Your Commission cannot define an effective European strategy without considering the specificities of the "downstream" sector of the automotive value chain, which is an essential component, in daily contact with consumers across the entire European territory.

We would therefore be highly motivated by the prospect of constructively contributing to this roadmap, which must be unfold at a truly pivotal moment in the history of the automotive industry in Europe.

Remaining at your complete disposal, and once again our warmest congratulations,

Yours sincerely,


Xavier HORENT

Xavier Horent



Arne Joswig



Peter Niesink



Henri de Hemptinne

Copies

Cabinet of the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen
Björn Seibert
Alexandre Adam
Peter van Kemseke
Ruth Reichstein

Commissioner Teresa Ribera, Commissioner for Clean Just and Competitive Transition
Commissioner Stéphane Séjourné, Commissioner for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy
Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra, Climate, Commissioner for Net Zero and Clean Growth
Commissioner Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism