

CECRA – European Council for Motor Trades and Repairs  
Jules Bordetlaan 164  
1140 Brussels, Belgium

Ms. Ursula von der Leyen  
President of the European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Brussels, 24 January 2025

**Subject: Request to integrate CECRA into the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of the European Automotive Industry**

Dear President von der Leyen,

The European Council for Motor Trades and Repairs (CECRA) welcomes the European Commission's announcement of the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of the Automotive Industry, scheduled to take place on 30 January 2025, and we ask to be included in this process.

As the European umbrella organisation representing over 330,000 automotive trade and repair businesses and 2.9 million jobs across the EU, CECRA is a key stakeholder in this sector. Our members, predominantly small and medium-sized enterprises, are the backbone of Europe's automotive economic activity, employment, and innovation. Together, these enterprises contribute to fostering a sustainable, competitive, and resilient European Union.

CECRA is committed to supporting the EU's climate goals by promoting the widespread adoption of electric vehicles. To achieve this, affordable mobility and confidence in the second-hand EV market – residual values and the battery state of health (SOH) in particular – is essential to accelerate the transition to electric mobility for all.

Our ongoing involvement in the European Commission's Working Group on 'Opportunities and measures to broaden the uptake of zero-emission cars' underscores our dedication to advancing a greener, more sustainable automotive industry and the actionable recommendations we can provide.

We firmly believe that CECRA's extensive expertise and insights in market dynamics, consumer expectations, and the challenges faced by the automotive retail sector could significantly enrich the Strategic Dialogue. Automotive professionals remain the first point of contact for consumers and businesses in the buying process of a new vehicle: they play a key role in advising buyers which vehicle to choose and providing information on new drivetrains, technological advancements, total cost of ownership (TCO), upcoming regulatory change and exploiting the full potential of Europe's internal market. If we want a thriving automobile industry "Made in Europe", we need to get consumers and businesses on board, and automobile dealers will play an essential role in this process.

We kindly request that CECRA be formally included in the Strategic Dialogue to contribute to the discussions shaping the future of Europe's automotive value chain, its businesses and its people.

We look forward to joining this debate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Daeninck".

Peter Daeninck  
President

CECRA - European Council for Motor Trades and Repairs