



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Automotive Skills Council successfully takes off**

On 28 January 2015, the Automotive Skills Council successfully took off with its first Networking Event “Growth and Employment”, held at the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels. This initiative, co-funded by the European Commission under the Progress Programme is part of the conclusions of the CARS2020 report which sets the basis for a predictable regulatory framework for the automotive industry in the next decades.

*“The Automotive Skills Council will help to better anticipate the current and future skills needs throughout the automotive sector and it will contribute to tackling skills shortage and skills mismatch by focusing on job creation, retraining and job transformation in the automotive sector”,* said Paul Schockmel, CLEPA CEO.

CLEPA, who is the project leader, will be working for 18 months together with its partners IndustriAll and ETRMA to create a European platform which will be able to shape European employment policies with regard to skills. ACEA and CEEMET are supporting partners. Securing existing and new funding for training activities in the automotive sector and increasing the exchange of information and best practices will be two of the main activities members of the Council will focus on.

The first networking event had the scope to identify the right partners in different European countries as well as potential Skills Council members: representatives of National Associations and their members, skills alliances, national employments agencies, clusters, and research institutes.

*“Workers are at the heart of this technological and production developments. They have the right to be trained and skilled so that they have the right skills and qualifications to work as well in the company of the future”,* stressed Mr Triangle, Deputy Secretary General of industriAll.

The Skills Council, taking into account the drivers of the industry, will contribute to collect data on current and future skills needs and mapping which jobs will appear or disappear in the future.

*“Unemployment remains a thorn in the side of many governments and a plague for younger generations, and therefore the work of this skills council for the automotive sector is all the more important. This is just the beginning of the process and we look forward to a fruitful cooperation and to the creation of a pool of experience and expertise that will help us in our future labour market challenges”,* concluded Mrs Fazilet Cinaralp, Secretary General, ETRMA.

The next networking events will take place in Paris on 24<sup>th</sup> June and in Rome on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015. The final Conference will be held in Brussels in February 2016.

### **Note to Editors**

The **European Sector Skills Council for the Automotive Industry** is an 18-month project, funded by the European Commission DG Employment, which aims at establishing a networking platform with focus on skills issues in the automotive sector. Project partners CLEPA, ETRMA and industriAll - with the support of ACEA and CEEMET - have been trusted with the establishment of this networking platform which will enable and facilitate the exchange of best practices at European level in terms of anticipating and managing skills requirements for the automotive industry. In order to realize this objective, the Skills Council will be set up from a broad range of stakeholders, such as industry representatives (employers' organisations and trade unions), research institutes, automotive clusters, public authorities and training providers.

**CLEPA is the European Association of Automotive Suppliers.** 110 of the world's most prominent suppliers for car parts, systems and modules and 24 National trade associations and European sector associations are members of CLEPA, representing more than 3 thousand companies, employing more than 5 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).

### **Facts about the European automotive industry**

- Some **12 million** people are employed in the European automotive industry
- European automotive suppliers directly employ **5 million** people
- European automotive suppliers invest **€18bn** in RDI per year. They are one of the biggest private investors into research and innovation
- Per year, **16 million** vehicles are manufactured in Europe, contributing to the stability and growth of the European economy

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**industriAll European Trade Union** represents 7.1 million workers across supply chains in manufacturing, mining and energy sectors on the European level. Almost 200 affiliated organisations from 39 European countries are representative bodies for their industries. industriAll Europe focuses the economic and social interests of workers in the metal industry at European level. The industriAll Europe advocates a social Europe characterised by democracy, freedom, social justice and solidarity. It also defends and promotes the ability of the European social model to face up to future challenges. At the same time it supports Europe's political and economic integration, whilst bearing in mind the unions' traditions and roots in the culture of their own respective nation states.

<http://www.industriall-europe.eu/>

**ETRMA** is the European Tyre and Rubber Manufacturers' Association. Based in Brussels since 1959, ETRMA's membership includes corporate tyre manufacturers: **Apollo Vredestein, Bridgestone Europe, Brisa, Cooper Tires, Continental, Goodyear Dunlop Tires Europe, Hankook, Marangoni, Michelin, Mitas, Nokian Tyres, Pirelli and Trelleborg Wheel Systems.** Furthermore, members include national associations in **Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the UK.** More than **4200 companies**, providing direct employment for more than **360,000 people** in the EU. ETRMA members' turnover is estimated at **€46bn**, of which up to **5% continues to be invested in R&D, annually.**

<http://www.etrma.org/>