

Summary record - Meeting with ACEA on 31 January 2020.

The Executive Vice President met the representatives of the automotive sector and of ACEA.

Manufacturers underlined the significant economic importance of the automotive sector for the EU economy and jobs. They stressed their support to the European Green Deal and the transition towards road transport climate neutrality by 2050.

ACEA presented the key elements of its 10-points plan to help implement the European Green Deal, and stressed the following key points:

- Maintain technological neutrality and refrain from mandating certain technologies for specific vehicle segments. In addition discourage bans on specific technologies
- Tackle the use of vehicles in the fleet as part of the holistic approach to carbon neutrality. Include all energy carriers in a stronger EU ETS. Put forward policies supporting a reduction in the GHG intensity of fuels, including sustainable biofuels.
- Urgently deploy a EU-wide network of charging points and re-fuelling stations as a key element of increasing consumers acceptance for zero and low emission vehicles. There should be an ambitious review of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (AFID), with mandatory national targets and promote smart charging, also taking into account of the specific requirements of the heavy-duty segment.
- Ensure affordability of future new zero and low emission vehicles. In the HDVs sector, ensuring business viability for these vehicles is essential.
- Provide sufficient time to learn from the market dynamics on the deployment of zero- and low-emission vehicles, before reviewing the CO2 standards.
- Support research and innovation for zero- and low-emission vehicles and for low-carbon fuel solutions. Also further improve the efficiency of the internal combustion engine.
- Develop incentive schemes for vehicle users to encourage a swifter fleet renewal in all vehicle segments, accelerating the uptake of new technologies. This should include revisions of the European energy taxation system and of Eurovignette.
- Support re-skilling and skills upgrading in the automotive industry as well as giving financial support to the transition.
- Call for support of the Commission to develop harmonized standards for the certification of heavy duty vehicles under UNECE.

The Executive Vice President underlined both the challenges and the opportunities of the transition towards zero emission mobility. He stressed that the Commission will accompany its future proposals with thorough impact assessments. He called for a continued constructive dialogue with the automotive sector to prepare these policies. He recalled the importance of a technology neutral approach as a basis for policies, while stressing that solutions to facilitate the transition would need to ensure that no one is left behind.