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**Cc:** GROW DDG1; GROW 03 BRIEFING REQUESTS; [REDACTED] (ENTR) [REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu)

**Subject:** Meeting between Antti Peltomäki and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] VW Group - Basis No: GROW 5185

Meeting between Antti Peltomäki and [REDACTED] VW Group  
15 March 2017, 15h30 – 16h00

VW: [REDACTED], Dr. Christoph Klietz, [REDACTED]  
DG GROW: Antti Peltomäki, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

The meeting was held as a courtesy meeting during which VW updated the Commission/DG GROW on the main strategic priorities for the next 5-15 years.

[REDACTED] addressed the following points:

- His role as [REDACTED] the VW Group. He explains that the industry is currently going through two major transformation processes, i.e. product innovation and business model innovations. For VW, this means strategic decisions from a classical car manufacturer to a sustainable mobility provider have to be taken, which he leads across VW's brands.
- For this purpose, VW developed 16 points/indicators across its 12 brands to master this change process.
- Future research spending will go into new technology options for post-2020 CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> reduction objectives. Here, customer preferences and the general environmental footprint targets will play a role. Preferable, VW would like to achieve carbon neutral solutions, taking life cycle assessment into account. CNG is a good solution in the short term.
- Batteries innovation will play a major role in this strategic planning. While for lithium-ion batteries the competition from Asia is very strong, the VW Group will invest in second-generation batteries. It is important that EU manufacturers acquire know how on battery cells chemistry.
- Customers are still shying away from electric vehicles because of charging challenges. VW formed a joint venture with Daimler, the BMW Group and Ford to set up a high-power and fast-charging electrical vehicle network across the EU.
- On new mobility demand services, VW is looking into potential solutions which would be between taxis and buses. A pilot project on special purpose electric vehicle for urban areas is planned in the city of Hamburg.

Mr. Peltomäki underlined that:

- While the Commission is busy with dealing with the past, i.e. the consequences of 'Dieselgate' and ensuring that such incidences do not happen again in the future, work on the future of the automotive industry is very much on the Commission agenda.
- In the scope of the Energy Union, the Commission will address future challenges such as CAD, batteries, new mobility means and other key issues.

- Mr. Peltomäki highlights in this context the work of GEAR 2030 as a consultative forum on these pressing issues to accompany the political decision making process.
- In terms of concrete challenges, Mr. Peltomäki asks for the most pressing concerns:
  - [REDACTED] mentions the issue of big data as a major issue to be addressed;
  - [REDACTED] underlines the need for a well-developed charging infrastructure to go hand-in-hand with the development of zero-emissions cars;
  - High energy costs remain a major concern in the production of batteries, which currently account for 40% of the production costs of electric vehicles. This makes electric cars less affordable for customers.

Mr. Peltomäki thanked [REDACTED] for the visit.

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