

**Brussels, 24 September 2025
(OR. en)**

13007/25

**COMPET 890
IND 359**

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Competitiveness Council of 29 September 2025: Third Strategic Dialogue with the European Automotive Industry, 12 September 2025 <i>- Information from the Commission</i>

This note presents a debrief to Ministers on the results of the third Strategic Dialogue with the European Automotive Industry which took place on 12 September 2025 in Brussels, Belgium. A dedicated dialogue between the CEOs of European Truck manufacturers and Commissioners Tzitzikostas, Hoekstra and Jorgensen also took place the day before to address the specific issues of the heavy-duty vehicles market segment.

The President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen held the third Strategic Dialogue on the Future of the European Automotive Industry on 12 September 2025. The dialogue gathered the European automotive industry (manufacturers and suppliers), social partners and other key stakeholders, including a consumer organisation and civil society. It continued the Commission's commitment to safeguard the future of a sector that is vital to European prosperity and ensuring its long-term competitiveness, sustainability, and resilience, while delivering on our shared goal of climate neutrality. The meeting reaffirmed the need to act fast to implement the Automotive Action Plan. As technology transforms mobility and geopolitics reshapes global competition, there can be no business as usual. Key discussions focused, amongst others, on securing Europe's leadership in electric vehicles, accelerating innovation in autonomous and connected vehicles, and strengthening

European battery manufacturing industry. The Commission is improving access to critical raw materials and supporting workers through reskilling in order to address the rising anxiety among the workforce as a result of job losses and uncertainty.

President von der Leyen launched the Strategic Dialogue¹ on the future of the automotive industry in January 2025 to address profound changes in the automotive sector. The European Automotive Industry faces a rapidly evolving environment with new technologies and increased competition, alongside geopolitical uncertainties. Previous dialogues with President von der Leyen took place on 30 January 2025 and on 3 March 2025.

On 5 March 2025, the Commission introduced an Action Plan² building on the Strategic Dialogue, detailing concrete actions to ensure a robust and sustainable automotive sector and help unleash its innovative power. The Action Plan is the result of an inclusive and collaborative process, which involved multiple discussions and stakeholder engagement initiated through the Strategic Dialogue.

Main outcomes

The dialogue allowed the European automotive industry, social partners and other key stakeholders to provide input. While a key message from the companies represented in the Dialogue in the wake of the International Motor Show in Munich was that “Europe is back”, in the dialogue, the participants highlighted the increasing challenge posed by the unfair

competition with China, while also recognising that the EU-US trade deal was the best that could be achieved. Participants highlighted the need to get further protection within the single market and the Union to accelerate with the introduction of conditionalities for foreign investment, to guarantee a level playing field.

They supplied input on upcoming Commission initiatives, including the review of the Regulation on the CO2 emission performance standards of cars and vans, the proposal on greening corporate fleets, regulatory simplification for passenger cars, as well as light commercial and heavy-duty vehicles. Participants reviewed the implementation of the Automotive Action Plan, launched in March 2025, and assessed progress towards a solid European automotive industry and a successful clean mobility transition.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_378

² ST 6843/25

As announced in the State of the European Union speech, the Commission will launch the Battery Booster package to boost battery production in the EU as well as a new Small Affordable Cars Initiative. It will also advance the review of the CO2 emission standards that was foreseen for 2026 to the end of this year.

The next two years are decisive to gain technological development in Connected and Autonomous Vehicles. Enhanced cooperation and coordination of investment priorities are crucial to developing European-built software, hardware, AI models and autonomous driving ecosystems. The European Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Alliance (ECAVA), launched during the Strategic Dialogue, will serve as a forum for setting a shared industry agenda.

Conclusions

The Commission is closely monitoring and accompanying the transformation of the automotive industry and the multiple challenges that it faces, taking action as necessary. The next meeting of the Strategic Dialogue will take place at the end of the year.
