

P r e s s R e l e a s e

EUCAR calls for targeted support for automotive research & innovation initiatives in Horizon 2020

Brussels, 20th June 2012 - The European Council for Automotive R&D (EUCAR) calls for a number of priority automotive R&I initiatives in Horizon 2020 to support competitive and sustainable road transport and for these initiatives to be supported by a substantial budget that reflects the sector's social and economic contribution to Europe.

Rémi Bastien, Chairman of EUCAR, today set out the association's recommendations on Horizon 2020 to an audience of MEPs and stakeholders at a seminar in the European Parliament. Horizon 2020 is the EU's Framework Programme for Research & Innovation from 2014-2020. Presenting the recommendations, Mr Bastien highlighted the importance of Horizon 2020 for automotive R&I.

He called for the proposed €80bn Horizon 2020 budget to be maintained and for the legislation to be finalised as soon as possible.

To support automotive R&I effectively, a suitable budget for automotive initiatives in Horizon 2020 is necessary. This should reflect the automotive industry's direct contribution of 6.9% to European GDP* and road transport's status as a cornerstone of European society, free movement and economic activity. EUCAR therefore calls for a budget share of Horizon 2020 to be devoted to automotive R&I initiatives, which corresponds to the industry's direct contribution to the EU economy.

It is essential to support the objectives of smarter, cleaner, safer and more integrated road transport and to support the global competitiveness of the European automotive sector. Accordingly, EUCAR calls for several priority automotive R&I initiatives in the following domains to be included in Horizon 2020:

- Advanced powertrains for increased efficiency
- ICT for mobility
- ICT as an enabling technology for manufacturing
- Integrated safety
- Advanced materials and manufacturing
- Heavy duty vehicles and green corridors

These initiatives are to be supported by the three pillars of Horizon 2020: Societal Challenges, Industrial Leadership and Excellent Science. In particular, EUCAR supports the broad lines set out in the Commission's proposals for the programme on "Smart, Green and Integrated Transport" as well as the programmes on Energy, Climate/Raw Materials, Information and Communication Technology, Advanced Materials and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing.

For EUCAR and its partners in automotive R&I, an essential component in implementing the above priorities is the future European Green Vehicles Initiative (EGVI), which succeeds the ongoing European Green Cars Initiative. The EGVI should focus on the efficiency of the vehicle, including electrification, in all vehicle types.

EUCAR's position is set out in its position paper: http://www.eucar.be/publications/horizon_2020_position

Rémi Bastien is Renault's Senior Vice President of Research, Advanced Studies and Materials and 2012 Chairman of EUCAR.

*6.9% of EU GDP (according to EU project "European Assessment of Global Automotive Research" Benchmarking Analysis www.eagar.eu/docs/EAGAR_Benchmarking_Analysis_Report.pdf)

About EUCAR

EUCAR is the European Council for Automotive R&D of the major European passenger car and commercial vehicle manufacturers. EUCAR facilitates and coordinates pre-competitive research and development projects and its members participate in a wide range of collaborative European R&D programmes. The European automobile manufacturers are the largest private investors in R&D in Europe with over €26 billion investment per annum, or 5% of turnover. EUCAR members are BMW, DAF, Daimler, Fiat, Ford of Europe, GM/Opel, Jaguar Land Rover, Porsche, PSA Peugeot Citroën, Renault, Scania, Volkswagen, Volvo Cars and Volvo Group. EUCAR is closely connected to ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers Association.

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