

# Press Release

Brussels, 26 September 2024

## CECRA Conference in Brussels explores the future of automotive retail and repair

CECRA, in collaboration with the Belgian Trade Association TRAXIO, held today its conference in Brussels, bringing together key stakeholders from across Europe to discuss the future of automotive retail and repair. The event attracted more than 200 participants, including automotive distributors, repairers of passenger cars and trucks, and representatives from national and international trade associations.

The conference kicked-off with a compelling session focused on the European Green Deal, featuring insights from FuelsEurope and BEUC, the European consumer organization, Charge-up and HydrogenEurope. Speakers emphasized the importance of maintaining the EU's principle of technology diversity in the automotive sector. While the transition to zero-emission vehicles is essential for climate goals, a comprehensive industrial policy supporting this shift—particularly regarding supply chains and infrastructure—is crucial. Allowing low emission technologies, including hydrogen and e-fuels, would not only foster innovation but also provide operators with a range of options that would effectively reduce emissions in a way that it is both affordable and feasible. The session also highlighted the vital role of battery reparability in the industry's future, especially as electric vehicle adoption accelerates. The ability to repair batteries will impact vehicle longevity, sustainability, and the residual value of second-hand cars.

The second session addressed remarketing and the aftermarket, focusing on the rise of Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) and the digital transformation of the used car sector. [Car-Pass](#) presented how Belgium has successfully eradicated odometer fraud through the creation of a national database and mandatory exchange of mileage readings. As used cars are traded internationally, this model should be extended to all EU Member States. EU policymakers are urged to introduce legislation so that exchange mileage readings become mandatory. Also addressed during this session, was the access to in-vehicle data. As the automotive industry is evolving towards data-based services, aftermarket operators shall have direct, unmonitored, unrestricted and in real-time access to in-vehicle data which is essential for preserving competition, fostering innovation, and safeguarding consumer choice within the automotive repair industry. EC representative presented the Commission's latest stand in this dossier.

The final session explored the future distribution model for the automotive industry. Representatives from franchised dealers, operating since short as agents, have exposed the challenges they encountered and questioned the viability of agents as a long-term business model. ACEA provided insights into the automotive industry's outlook amidst global competitiveness challenges and geopolitical tensions. Presentations from ICDP and KPMG highlighted the evolving distribution strategies among manufacturers and the growing impact of Chinese automotive brands on the European retail landscape.

This conference marked a significant step forward in shaping the dialogue on automotive retail and repair in Europe, fostering collaboration among stakeholders to navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead.



**For more information**

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CECRA, established in 1983, is the European federation bringing together national professional associations, which represent the interests of motor trade and repair businesses and European Dealer Councils. CECRA represents on a European scale 336,720 motor trade and repair businesses. Together they employ 2.9 million people.

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