

Press Release

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The European Parliament adopts the Data Act: now the next step

The European Parliament has adopted with an overwhelming majority of 500 votes in favour, 23 against, and 110 abstentions its position on the Data Act, setting harmonised rules on accessing, sharing and using data generated by connected products, such as vehicles and related services.

EU Council is expected to agree on a common position on 28 March. The first round of interinstitutional negotiations ('trialogues') could then start.

A pillar of the current Commission's digital strategy, the regulation seeks to unleash the opportunities presented by the data economy and industrial IoT data in particular - 80% of which is underused in the EU according to the European Commission.

The proposal covers:

- Business-to-business (B2B) data sharing, allowing users to access the data generated by connected devices and decide to share it with third parties (e.g. service providers other than the manufacturer).
- Business-to-government (B2G) data sharing, compelling companies to make non-personal data available to public sector bodies/institutions under certain circumstances and conditions.
- Requirements for cloud service providers, allowing customers to effectively switch between different service providers.
- International non-personal data transfer, establishing safeguards against unlawful non-personal data transfer to third countries.

CECRA welcomes the Parliament's vote giving vehicle users the right to claim access to in-vehicle generated data and to share these data with a third party such as vehicle repair shops or any other kind of service provider of their choice.

However, it is a good step forward, the Data Act is not sufficient to create effective competition in data-driven automotive and mobility services. In the automotive sector, the use of vehicle generated data also requires access to the vehicle's functions and resources. Vehicle manufacturers, in their role of service providers, have such access others not. This prevents independent service providers to develop and offer compelling and affordable services to end-users on a level playing field.

CECRA, together with several other automotive mobility and aftermarket associations and consumer organisations, therefore urges European policymakers to introduce a robust and ambitious sector-specific legislation underpinned by specific technical and legal requirements with clear governance rules. These are essential to guarantee equal access to the vehicle, its data, functions and communication with the users. Multiple studies have identified that there are systemic barriers and structural impediments to equitable data access in the automotive & mobility sector.

For more information

Bernard Lycke

Director General

Bernard.lycke@cecra.eu

Mobile: +32 475 932 693



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.

Boulevard de la Woluwe 46, box 9 - 1200 Brussels - Belgium - t. +32 (2) 771.96.56 - mail@cecra.eu - www.cecra.eu