

## Press Release



Brussels, 19/09/2019

### **“New Commission ready to take concrete steps towards ensuring access to data and connectivity”**

On 18 September 2019, CECRA organized its **Annual Dinner Event** at The Hotel in Brussels with great success. Almost all of the federation’s national associations and European dealer councils attended, as the event provides the opportunity to bring together its members once per year and exchange views on the current state of affairs in the sector, as well as to discuss and express their ideas as regards the present and future challenges for cars, vans and trucks dealers and repairers.

“We live in a changing world undergoing a paradigm shift in services. We should seize opportunities for innovation. This is a unique chance for growth but tough chance. I sincerely believe that our sector, that we, CECRA, have a responsibility towards our world, towards people”: with these introductory remarks by CECRA’s President Jean-Charles Herrenschmidt and after a brief summary by CECRA’s Director General Bernard Lycke about what CECRA and several other European associations have been doing in this regard, **Mehdi Hocine**, Deputy Head of Unit for Automotive Business in European Commission’s Directorate-General for the Internal Market, Industry Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), took the floor to provide a speech on **“Connected and Automated Driving in the EU”**.

DG GROW’s focus is on striking the right balance between ensuring cybersecurity and providing access to data, taking into account three main points: developing key technologies and infrastructures, ensuring automated and connected mobility is safe and addressing societal concerns (jobs, skills, ethical issues).

On regulating access to connected vehicle data, the Deputy Head of Unit underscored the need to update the existing legislation on access to Repair and Maintenance Information, achieving a fair balance between competition and cybersecurity. Within EC’s Motor Vehicle Working Group, there are ongoing discussions on several issues to be heeded on the topic (e.g. regarding possible competition problems or innovation threats), while the European Parliament has adopted two resolutions urging the Commission to table a comprehensive proposal on access to in-vehicle data.



Lastly, Mr Hocine presented a timeline regarding to rules on access to data, stating that a study on the topic is to be launched in December 2019 or early 2020, with a possible **proposal for a Regulation** of the Council and of the European Parliament being estimated to be brought forwards **as from late 2020**.

On the following day, CECRA's **General Meeting** was held at Maison de l'Automobile, where the federation is based. **Jean-Charles Herrenschildt** was reelected as **President** of CECRA for another 3 year mandate, along with the following members of the Board of Directors:



Treasurer & Executive Vice-President: **Arnold Koopmans**  
Vice-President/Chairman European Car Dealers: **Peter Daeninck**  
Vice-President/Chairman European Truck Dealers: **Renaud Vauleon**  
Vice-President/Chairman Independent Repairers: **Gerard ten Buuren**  
Director to the Board: **Geert Brummelhuis**  
Director to the Board: **Sandy Burgess**  
Director to the Board: **Matti Porho**  
Director to the Board: **Christian Rampelbergh**  
Director to the Board: **Pekka Rissa**  
Immediate Past President: **Jean-Paul Bailly**

Also, CECRA welcomed two new members in its family, as Scottish Motor Trade Association (**SMTA**) from Scotland and Verband der Marken-Vertragshändler (**VMH**) from Germany joined the federation, after their registration was unanimously approved.

In the second part of the event, Anthony Santino from Roland Berger made a presentation of the "**Roland Berger Automotive Disruption Radar**", an elaborate and comprehensive mapping of the consumer trends within the automotive industry in relation to the rapid technological advancement decisively affecting the sector (such as digitalization and electrification).

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.