

**European Association of Automotive Suppliers** 

# EU Automotive suppliers R&I vision on Circularity

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European Association of Automotive Suppliers

CLEPA, the European Association of Automotive Suppliers, represents over 3.000 companies supplying state-of-the-art components and innovative technologies for the mobility of the future Direct membership of over 140 global suppliers 15 national associations & 14 associated members



€30 bn invested in R&D annually



**75**% of the vehicle value comes from suppliers

## SUSTAINABILITY – WHAT'S AT STAKE?



#### TODAY

Automotive suppliers conduct materiality assessments, formulate sustainability strategies, and proactively communicate on their metrics and KPIs





#### HOWEVER....

The automotive sector remains under public scrutiny, and there are different degrees of maturity in the industry

#### TOMORROW

In line with the overlying European Green Deal targets, and evolving customer demands, suppliers are increasingly investing in sustainability

# Circularity is crucial for reducing the environmental impact of vehicles

### How does the Automotive Recycling System today look alike?



# HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CIRCULARITY



### An average vehicle is made of more than 30.000 components

- Suppliers are key providers of innovative technological solutions
- Strong need for dedicated research in new areas requiring:
  - Novel forms of collaboration among the value chain
  - Circular-Economy mindset
    right from the vehicle
    concept and design phase



#### **ECO - DESIGN APPROACH TO CIRCULAR VEHICLE** Design for... Optimized processes 000000 Natural resource Transformation Placing on the market efficiency Sourcing into product **Production** Reduction of vehicle environmental impact Use phase Share and intensify usage **End-Of-Life** Giving resources a new life: material recycling and **Repair & re-use** part re-using Life-time maximization

Becomes waste

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# Key aspects of a vehicle circularity in the EU





# Life time maximisation and usage intensification

**14-20 years** is the average lifetime of a vehicle, being one of the consumer products with the longest lifespans.

Up to **15 years** after vehicle production, customers are supplied with new and remanufactured spare parts.



### Natural resource efficiency

**1/3 of a vehicle,** already consists of secondary materials.



### Giving resources a new life: material recycling and part re-use

> 85% of a vehicle that has reached the end of its lifecycle can be recycled, being one of the most recyclable consumer products.

### LIFE-TIME MAXIMIZATION

Solutions to maximize vehicle lifetime need to be integrated at design stage

Maintain vehicle performance over a longer life-span

Facilitate repairability and maintenance

Maintain vehicle attractivity longer







# NATURAL RESOURCES EFFICIENCY

Design-thinking approach, through frugal design techniques and better selection of materials used with sustainability in perspective

# Frugal design & variability reduction

Prioritize usage of low CO<sub>2</sub> emission materials (avoid fossil feedstocks)

Alternatives to scarce, critical, or restricted substances







### **GIVING RESOURCES A NEW LIFE**

Once a product reaches its end-of-life, required is a multi-stakeholder approach to second-life, recyclability and disposal

Design solutions to enable multiple lifecycles of product and materials Understanding conditions at the end of life Quality insurance criteria

Facilitate sorting and separation





### **KEY ENABLERS FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

Holistic approach necessitating policy measures coupled with industry alignments and collaboration along the value chain

- Life-time maximisation as a crucial element of a circular economy
- Trade-off between circular economy and chemical restrictions
- Secondary materials must meet the automotive high-quality standards
- Reliance on sustainable value chains
- Efficient information sharing
- Effective cooperation

### **KEY ENABLERS FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

In the same context, EUCAR has defined a series of key objectives, including:

- Design for sustainability and circularity covering recycling processes and improving sustainability of materials and components.
- Promote standardization of a set of tools and defining performance indicators to help the Automotive Industry achieve the objectives.
- Develop technologies for the efficient use of resources to boost material recycling quotas and increase secondary material use
- Establish globally recycling loops and return facilities especially for end-of-life EVs to allow an efficient use of the vehicles across markets and regions. Closed-loop recycling, especially for critical battery materials (Li, Ni, Mn, Co), is a geopolitical necessity
- Ensure longer and more sustainable lifetimes of vehicles by addressing the repairability and upgradability of vehicles
- Adopt holistic approach involving all stakeholders and specifically addressing the fragmented recycling industry.



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# Many thanks

David M. Storer d.storer@clepa.be