

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

**Addressing
a competitive,
innovative
& resilient
automotive
aftermarket**

#WeDriveEU

The 'Automotive Coalition for Europe', representing stakeholders active across the automotive and mobility value chain, calls on EU decision-makers to commit to fostering a competitive, innovative and value-creating Aftermarket through effective and balanced regulation.

1 *Holistic and Inclusive Policymaking*

EU automotive policies should be designed in a holistic and inclusive manner, reflecting all affected value chains and the full vehicle lifecycle, from development to usage and de-commissioning at end-of-life. This should include repair, maintenance and the associated provision of parts, tools and related services.

2 *Simplification but not Deregulation*

Regulatory simplification and burden reduction are welcome, but must not result in deregulation or the weakening of competition safeguards. A level playing field is essential for preserving a resilient and innovative Aftermarket.

3 *Repairability, Upgradability and Avoidance of Premature Obsolescence*

Vehicles should remain repairable and upgradeable throughout their entire lifecycle. Technical and regulatory choices, including the deployment of new vehicle technologies, must not impede repairability and should avoid design practices that lead to premature obsolescence. Hardware, software and cybersecurity systems must remain upgradeable over time to ensure cost-efficient, sustainable and affordable mobility.

4 *Right to Repair in the Context of Software-defined Vehicles*

While supporting technological progress and the rise of connected and software-defined vehicles, the Coalition recognises the risk of new structural gatekeeper positions emerging through the nature of modern software architectures. Regulation must ensure framework conditions which enable all Aftermarket operators to compete fairly in parts, tools, data & information and repair and maintenance services, on the basis of their value proposition.

5 *Enabling Data-Driven Innovation in Services*

Harmonised, cross-brand access to vehicle data and functions is essential to enable data-driven innovation in automotive services. Sector-specific rules for access to in-vehicle data, functions & resources, complementing on the Data Act, are needed to unlock competitive, cross-brand digital mobility services.

6 *Investment in a highly skilled automotive workforce*

Technological change, decarbonisation and digitalisation create an increased demand for highly skilled and qualified workers. Expanding EU research and education programmes, alongside leveraging structural funds to support skills development and retraining, will help ensure the sector's resilient and sustainable development, support the delivery of affordable mobility and strengthen social cohesion.

This Declaration expresses the shared principles and intent of the Coalition. It is open for endorsement by organisations that subscribe to its objectives and values and wish to contribute constructively to the future of competitive and innovative automotive aftermarkets in Europe.

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