Cabinet Newsletter

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Dear Reader,

Yesterday marked an important day for the automotive industry. On Wednesday, Vice President Tajani chaired the freshly re-launched CARS 21 High Level Group in its new form and with a new mission.



Antonio Preto Head of Cabinet

The European Commission had asked the group to develop a common action plan and a vision for "a competitive EU automotive industry and sustainable mobility and growth in 2020 and beyond". It is with this in mind that the Vice President has undertaken this new mission, seeking to reach the objectives set out by the EU in its strategies both for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for clean and energy-efficient vehicles. Also figuring into his recommendations will be the EU's flagship initiatives on resource efficiency and industrial policy.

In order to reach these objectives, the Vice President has enlarged the group to represent the various stakeholders whose involvement is necessary in order to succeed in CARS 21's mission. As he noted, "The automotive industry is crucial for Europe as an economy and as a society. We need an ambitious and comprehensive strategy to foster its competitiveness and growth worldwide while ensuring sustainability. By bringing all the relevant interests to the same table, we will identify policies fit for the future".



These stakeholders include key representatives of the automotive industry, trade unions, non-governmental organisations, technical experts, Member States, and the Commission, among others. In terms of how it will be run, there will be a three-level structure, comprised of a

high-level group, a 'sherpa' group briefing the high-level group, and working groups focusing on specific topics. CARS 21 will develop policy recommendations for topics such as competiveness and sustainable growth, as well as development and clean vehicle technology.

We look forward to issuing a report in spring 2012 detailing an effective European industrial policy for the automotive sector with specific policy recommendations. Until then, look out for updates on our progress to this end.