

EDUCAM VZW

Short description of the organization:

EDUCAM is the continuing **training body of the automobile branch in Belgium** and was created by employers and employees. In fact, EDUCAM is a joint body organization that is bringing up to standards, keeping up and promoting the workers' knowledge and craftsmanship necessary in the sector. EDUCAM's evolution has therefore followed that of (continuous) vocational training. EDUCAM's goal is to set up and implement the automobile services branch policy, focusing on increasing qualifications and the continuous adaptation of employees to technological advances within the sector.

Interest and statement (mainly question 6 related):

As we evolve into the Knowledge Centre in Belgium for anything related to the automobile branch, we need to follow all technical innovations very closely, especially those regarding electric and hybrid drives. Our goal is to anticipate the branch's training needs and to transform these technological challenges in new training programmes.

We would like to point out the **importance of information flow to and training of the employees in the automotive sector**, as this is key to a successful adaptation of these new technologies by the customer and after market sector.

In addition to the technological aspect, one should not forget the necessity to anticipate safety problems. Hybrid and electric vehicles include high tension devices, which can involve peril to one's life. Also vehicles with new gas/liquid containers (CNG, H2, ...) create new risks for the technicians. **So it is of vital importance to develop a policy of risk prevention. We would like to see a clear European policy regarding the education and possibly certification (by examination) of people working on these new types of vehicles, containing new technologies and risks.** Currently there is no framework regarding these aspects of the introduction of clean and energy efficient vehicles.

Best regards,

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