



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 10.10.2013
C(2013) 6472 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the European Commission Communication entitled CARS 2020: Action Plan for a competitive and sustainable automotive industry in Europe {COM(2012) 636 final}.

The implementation of the commitments presented by the Commission in the CARS 2020 Action Plan is an important step on the way to bring back to the European automotive industry the path of sustainable growth and job creation. While recognizing the key role of this sector for the entire European economy, the Commission strongly supports further investments in research and development activities as well as those which aim at increasing human capital and supporting the development of a skilled workforce. The modified conditions for the eligibility for regional aid under the revised regional aid guidelines do not exclude aid for large enterprises.

The Commission must however ensure the coherence among the use of Structural funds, State aid and internal market rules. State aid can be a useful instrument to prevent delocalisation of activities and investments outside the EU, but it is not the only instrument. Therefore the Commission searches for a balanced compromise, taking into account the need for restructuring but also the importance of not hindering possible investments, which could bring growth and jobs. Moreover, the Commission takes into account the specificities of each segment of the automotive market as well as of each player when assessing eligibility for State aid and financing from the Structural funds and their compatibility with the internal market rules.

The Commission hopes that the above addresses the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

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