Pact for Skills Roundtable with Commissioners Schmit and Breton for the Automotive Sector

The roundtable with the automotive sector, chaired by both Commissioners on 23 September 2020, brought together companies' CEOs, education and training associations and social partners. It aimed at pointing out the skills needs of the automotive ecosystem, suggest concrete ways to address them and obtain participants' commitments for engagement and contribution.

There was recognition that Europe's automotive sector was facing major structural disruptions, which were being speeded up by the impact of the COVID crisis.

There was agreement that the sector was facing – at the same time – a major skills challenge in adapting the workforce to this structural change and in recruiting and nurturing digital talent (especially highly qualified and specialised software developers).

There was general support for action at the EU-level in close synergy with national and regional efforts to help the industry in meeting this skills challenge.

There was a broad welcome for the Pact for Skills proposal and a number of representatives committed their companies/organisations to developing a concrete proposal for a dedicated automotive partnership under the Pact.

A number of ideas and principles were suggested for the automotive partnership including:

- The need to address the fragmentation of skills initiatives in the EU and encourage closer co-operation between companies and educational institutes.
- A key first step is to map those initiatives and identify ways that they can co-operate – the work of the DRIVES project will be critical here.
- The Pact must be inclusive – important to take account of the whole value chain (including SMEs) and workforce with the different levels of skills required
- Important role that local and regional training centres and clusters can play in identifying skill needs (especially for SMEs) and help in the delivering of training.
- The Pact must be built on the work of DRIVES and related blueprints such as ALBATTS.