EUROPE THAT DEFENDS ITS INDUSTRY AND WORKERS

The car was invented in Europe and Europe must take the lead in re-inventing it. The energy and climate challenge is an opportunity for the EU industry to modernise. But we, Europeans, are not the only ones to see these opportunities for jobs, growth and investments. Our main trading partners are already moving in this direction, with China setting an ambitious target for electric vehicles, which translates into about 5 per cent of all new sales in 2019.

Innovation, digitisation and decarbonisation are key to keeping the European car industry in a leadership position in the future. It is therefore important to accelerate the transition towards low and zero emission vehicles. We want this transition to happen in a socially inclusive, cost effective and technology-neutral manner. The Commission’s proposal will strengthen technological leadership in automotive manufacturing and spur jobs and growth: it is estimated that net employment in the EU could grow by up to 70,000 jobs in 2030.

“I want to make our industry stronger and more competitive”

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union Address, 13 September 2017
Value chains in the automotive sector are changing fast with new players entering the game. This includes the development and production of batteries which are at the core of the ongoing transition of the European economy. New technologies and business models will continue to spur job creation in Europe. The European batteries market is projected to increase by a factor 4 to 10 between today and 2025.

Between 2007 and 2015, the Commission has invested €375 million in 135 research and innovation projects on battery technologies. Between 2018 and 2020, the Commission will invest an additional €200 million from the Horizon 2020 programme to support the development and production in Europe of the next generation of electric batteries.

In parallel, the Commission supports efforts of the European industry, Member States and the European Investment Bank, to establish a competitive manufacturing chain, capture sizeable markets and boost jobs, growth and investment across Europe. A comprehensive roadmap for an EU Battery Alliance will be presented in February 2018, at the Clean Energy Industrial Forum, as part of the EU Industry Days.

The Commission recognises that the accelerating transformation of the mobility sector can have a disruptive impact for workers. It must therefore be accompanied by measures to ensure a smooth transition and increase resilience so that people and communities are able to take advantage of the new opportunities.

Key initiatives include the EU Skills Agenda and the Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills, the European Social Fund and the Erasmus+ Programme. Furthermore, in May 2017, the Commission proposed new measures to improve social and employment conditions in the transport sector, particularly for truck drivers. We want to enhance working conditions, for instance regarding rest periods, and clarify the rules applicable to remuneration.

NEXT-GENERATION ELECTRIC BATTERIES WILL HELP TO:

- Increase the market uptake of electric cars
- Improve air quality
- Generate new jobs and businesses
- Reduce dependency on oil and ensure a more stable energy supply

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