



The Association of European Vehicle Logistics

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PRESS RELEASE

ECG President calls for new partnership with OEMs

ECG president Costantino Baldissara has called for closer cooperation between European carmakers and vehicle logistics providers, arguing that a genuine cross - industry partnership would improve efficiency, eliminate waste and advance the cause of environmental sustainability in the transport sector.

In a welcome address to more than 250 attendees at this week's ECG annual conference in Berlin, Mr Baldissara proposed the establishment of a joint committee of leading carmakers and car movers that would define common areas of interest and craft an action plan to deal with them. He argued that standardisation across a range of areas from operating procedures to communications systems, auditing to benchmarking would make the industry as a whole more productive, cutting costs and improving quality to the benefit of all.

In a wide ranging discussion of the conference theme, "Partnership for Profit", he added that "the issue of maximum dimensions is another perennial problem that is best addressed by working together." Egon Christ, head of worldwide transportation and vehicle distribution for Daimler, was one of a number of leading carmaker representatives to back Mr Baldissara's views on the potential benefits of a closer relationship between the OEMs and their logistics providers. He said the recent formation of the Logistics Working Group within European carmakers' association ACEA will allow the industry to come together behind a common programme for improving the efficiency of the logistics chain. In clarifying their own position, he said, the carmakers would also prepare themselves for talks with ECG on matters of mutual interest. "There is an overlap in what we are doing that can be the base for future discussions," he said, citing efforts to improve handling procedures, standardise the auditing of compounds, and work on damage codes.

For ECG, the European Association of Finished Vehicle Logistics, the formation of such a committee would prove a major advance along a path it has pursued for some time. As Mr Baldissara noted: "ECG has worked hard to craft a genuinely productive relationship with its customers in the automotive industry for many years," Mr Baldissara said.

He cited the launch of the ECG Academy, which draws in students from car manufacturers and their logistics providers, providing a vital point of early contact for the leaders of the future. In addition, the organisation's Common Efficiency Improvement Programme and its Carbon Calculator were also designed to bring the industry together behind the goal of making transport more economically efficient and environmentally sustainable.

Several OEMs are now moving towards adoption of the Carbon Calculator, with Toyota due to start using the tool from January and Jaguar Land Rover and Renault Nissan shortly to begin trials. Emile Benaim, director of the vehicle logistics group at Toyota Motor Europe, said using the Carbon Calculator would sharply improve the consistency of the company's data and reduce its workload. Further cooperation with the OEMs would only lead to gains for the industry as a whole, Mr Baldissara said. More effective information sharing could eliminate bottlenecks in the supply chain, while joint lobbying efforts on subjects of mutual interest would increase the industry's impact in shaping emerging regulation.

Background for the Editors

ECG, the Association of European Vehicle Logistics, has been the voice of the Finished Vehicle Logistics industry in Europe since 1997. ECG represents the interests of some 100 member companies, from family owned SMEs to multi-nationals, and is the major champion of the European vehicle logistics sector. We represent all transport modes at EU level.

ECG Members provide transport, distribution, storage, preparation and post-production services to manufacturers, importers, car rental companies and vehicle leasing operators in 24 Member States, Turkey and Russia. They own or operate more than 360 car-carrying ships, 22,000 purpose built railway wagons, 46 river barges and 20,000 road transporters. As a major employer, the industry plays an important role in contributing to the economic success of the European Union. Today, ECG members have an aggregate turnover of €15 billion and their economic impact on companies associated with the sector is estimated at €34 billion. More than 60,000 Europeans are employed directly by the vehicle logistics industry and an additional 160,000 are indirectly employed in this sector.

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