



The Association of European Vehicle Logistics

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PRESS RELEASE

Automotive sector looking up says logistics industry

ECG, the Association of European Vehicle Logistics, has published its latest Confidence & Cost Trend Survey results and the vehicle logistics businesses that make up the membership are reporting some significant positive trends.

This regular quarterly survey has been carried out for 4 years now and 2013 results show several strong trends developing. The latest results show almost 70% of members plan to invest in trucks and almost 50% in recruiting truck drivers in the next six months. This strong signal is clearly linked to the most positive outlook in years in terms of volume growth expectations with 58% of respondents expecting growth in volume over the next 6 months. No wonder these companies are also reporting a far more optimistic commercial outlook than at any time since the crisis.

The sector's ability to raise funds from banks in order to finance these new investments is also on the rise – a slower and more moderate growth but a trend that commenced at the beginning of 2013. ECG is extremely pleased to note this apparent easing in investment ability but notes that there is still a significant part of the sector struggling to raise the funds needed for expansion.

2013 also marked a welcome period of stability in fuel costs and this undoubtedly contributes to the more optimistic outlook in the industry.

ECG President Costantino Baldissara said “The Confidence & Cost Trend Survey has been conducted regularly among ECG members since 2010 in order to track the sector's performance and the general sentiment for growth, costs and investments. The results of the last four years demonstrate that the Survey is an ideal tool to follow the positive and negative impacts the industry is facing and to identify market trends.”

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 almost 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 25 Member States, Turkey and Russia. They own or operate more than 420 car-carrying ships, 18,100 purpose built railway wagons, 85 river barges and 18,500 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 €22 billion and their economic impact on companies associated with the sector is estimated at €55 billion. More than 70,000 people are employed directly by the vehicle logistics industry and an additional 170,000 are indirectly employed in this sector.

For further information please contact:
Mike Sturgeon, Executive Director of ECG,
Tel: + 32 2 706 8280
Email: info@ecgassociation.eu
Website: www.ecgassociation.eu

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