



Photo © ECG : Wolfgang Göbel, ECG President presenting the outlook at the ECG Conference 2024, 25 October 2024, Hamburg, Germany.

Facilitating collaboration and increasing efficiency

ECG takes on the challenge in the vehicle logistics sector

Brussels, 20 November 2024

The vehicle logistics industry must find long-term solutions to tackle the challenging market conditions, according to the conclusion of the Association of European Vehicle Logistics conference in Hamburg. “The volumes have stabilized at a low level, which requires the industry to be more efficient through collaboration,” says Wolfgang Göbel, President of ECG.

At the recent ECG Conference in Hamburg, Mark Fulthorpe, Executive Director of S&P Global, provided key insights, predicting that there will be volume stagnation following a volatile period marked by the supply chain crisis, COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine. Since 2020, sales volumes have remained stable, with 2.5 million fewer new cars sold.

S&P Global expects a mere 1% increase for 2025 and anticipates volumes will remain stabilized at a low level until 2030. At the same time, we face geopolitical risks, increased global competition and short cycles. The industry’s challenge is to avoid letting these uncertainties deter us from initiating long-term collaborations. Mark Fulthorpe also emphasized the imbalance between supply and demand.

Mark Fulthorpe, S&P Global:

“The short term has been proving pretty painful to the vehicle manufacturers. We’ve been through a period of crisis where demand was often more robust than supply. At the same time, we saw disruption in the manufacturing side, creating an imbalance. There was far greater demand than supply for a couple of years and, in the last 18-24 months, the manufacturing side has been trying to catch up, so a couple of effects have boosted production levels. The first was rebuilding inventory stocks and the second was satisfying the demand that had developed during COVID.”

The forecast requires capacity adjustments and a continuous transformation process for the entire industry, including FVL companies and OEMs. ECG provides a platform for collaboration, standardization, and methodology development, encouraging the industry to actively participate in working groups on the association’s platform to tackle market challenges.

It also provides several initiatives and tools to facilitate efficiency and sustainability, including a bespoke emissions calculation methodology and a new working group on rail to identify opportunities for increased efficiency, securing resilient capacity and decarbonizing.

During the Conference, Frank Schnelle took over as Executive Director of ECG from Mike Sturgeon. Frank Schnelle will continue to lead the challenging work of decarbonization and the next step of reducing emissions.

Wolfgang Göbel, President ECG:

“From my observation, our industry is more consequential and stricter in following the transformation than the buying side of the market. The predictions of the volumes exclude growth, so the industry needs to adapt to be more efficient. We must consider avoiding the volatile market's short cycles by collaborating and keeping pace through the transition. “

Frank Schnelle, Executive Director, ECG:

“The association has demonstrated excellent examples of close co-operation across various areas of the industry, but there is still room for growth. ECG provides an excellent platform to collaboratively develop long-term solutions that make our industry more effective and, above all, more resilient.”

More photos from the ECG Conference 2024 [here](#).

Note to editors:

ECG is the established European platform for the outbound automotive logistics sector bringing together logistics service providers, manufacturer logistics managers and suppliers to the sector. ECG aims to facilitate non-commercial collaboration between member companies and assist them in sharing best practices in many operational areas, especially the harmonisation of operational standards.

For more information, please contact:

Frank Schnelle

Executive Director

ECG – The Association of European Vehicle Logistics

+32 2 706 82 80

info@ecgassociation.eu

www.ecgassociation.eu

About ECG

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 more than 200 member companies and partners, from family-owned SMEs to multi-nationals, and is the major champion of the European vehicle logistics sector.

ECG represents all transport models at EU level- road, rail, maritime and fluvial. ECG members provide transport, distribution, storage, preparation, and post-production services to manufacturers, importers, car rental companies, and vehicle leasing operators in the 27 Member States of the European Union as well as Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and beyond. They own or operate more than 470 car-carrying ships, 14,000 purpose-built railway wagons, 23 river barges, and 26,000 road transporters. As a major employer, the finished vehicle logistics sector plays an important role in contributing to the economic success of the European Union. Today, ECG members have an aggregate turnover of €21.3 bn and their economic impact on companies associated with the sector is estimated at €56bn. **More than 210,000 Europeans are employed directly by our members.**

