

Prague, 13th April 2018

V4 Automotive Summit: „Driving Competitiveness of V4 Countries“

The Automotive Industry Association (AutoSAP) hosted a Visegrad 4 conference in Prague about the future of the automotive industry. The main focus of the event was on the current EC legislative proposal regarding CO2 emission regulation after 2020 and on the preconditions for realistic growth of clean mobility. The conference saw presentations by (representatives of) national car manufacturer associations and ACEA (European Automobile Manufacturers' Association), ministries, Visegrad 4 EP members and companies present in the sectors involved.

The event has helped to clarify and highlight the attending countries' positions to the impacts that the CO2 emission targets proposed to be introduced for passenger cars and light commercial vehicles in 2025 and 2030 may have on industry in the V4. The speakers talked about the V4 countries' preparations for the arrival of clean mobility, the required infrastructural growth and the process of creating incentives to stimulate purchases of low-emission vehicles. AutoSAP appreciates and supports all cost-effective and economically feasible initiatives aimed at reducing transport emissions as quickly as possible. However, the V4 automotive associations agree that the targets proposed for passenger cars and vans need to be equally ambitious and realistic. To enable the Czech automotive industry to remain competitive, it is essential to set the right levels for ambitions and also the right timing, otherwise the respective legislation will have adverse effects on the local automotive industry and its position as one of the key pillars of the Czech economy.

The automotive industry in the V4 region is currently in stable condition. With over 1.4 million vehicles produced, the Czech Republic had an enormously successful 2017. The current performance can help us prepare for the future, because the smooth transition to low-emission mobility will require high investments in the automotive industry and will come with changes throughout the supply chain, including considerable impacts on its competitiveness, growth opportunities and employment sustainability. This process will therefore require effective interfaces among the adopted measures, support from national governments as well as from the EU and a close cooperation between the public and private sectors. Massive arrival of electric cars will have to come hand in hand with a system of incentives and adequate growth of the charging infrastructure.

The V4 automotive industry associations have summarised their positions in a joint document titled "Key Messages".

Held in Prague on 13 April 2018, the V4 Automotive Summit: "Driving Competitiveness of V4 Countries" followed on a similar conference that had taken place in Bratislava last year in spring. The Prague event was scheduled in the period, when the talks on the key legislation setting CO2 emission limits for cars produced after 2020, are being held in Brussels. The measures proposed by the European Commission may substantially affect the automotive industry in the V4 countries. The proposed targets are now being discussed by the European Parliament and the EU Council.

Besides AutoSAP, the conference was supported by the national automotive industry associations of Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. Financial support was provided by Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Czech, ŠKODA AUTO and Toyota Peugeot Citroën Automobile Czech.