

# Proposal for an Automotive Partnership in the next European budget

June 2025



Developed in coordination with EUCAR and CLEPA.

We<sup>1</sup> welcome the European Commission's proposal to establish a dedicated **Partnership for the Automotive sector** within the next budget (MFF), as outlined in the *Automotive Action Plan*<sup>2</sup>. The instrument should build on the successes of the pre-competitive research and innovation ecosystems of 2Zero, CCAM, Batt4EU, while integrating automotive specific aspects from other partnerships. We strongly support this initiative as a strategic instrument to enhance the **competitiveness, technological sovereignty, innovation power** and **sustainability** of the European automotive sector, fully in line with the *Competitiveness Compass*<sup>3</sup> strategy of the European Commission.

## Vision and key characteristics of the Partnership

We believe the new partnership should be guided by the following principles:

- **Strategic objectives:** the core mission should be to reinforce the **global competitiveness** of the automotive industry and Europe as an innovation powerhouse, to safeguard **jobs and create economic growth in the EU**.
  - The partnership should also contribute to address societal challenges such as Carbon Neutrality, Circular Economy, Resilience and European technology sovereignty.
- **Accelerate market deployment:**
  - Exploiting the whole innovation value chain from applied research to industrialisation, that is also open to disruptive technologies.
- **Industry and impact driven partnership:**
  - High-level steering involving both industry leaders and the European Commission.
  - Governance involving the entire innovation value chain.
- **Support for innovation-friendly regulation:**
  - Provide input to shape forward-looking, innovation-enabling regulatory frameworks.

To implement these principles, the new partnership should have the following governance features:

- **Simplified and agile:**
  - An agile, streamlined, flexible, and low-bureaucracy governance model, allowing to gain speed in programme definition and projects implementation.

<sup>1</sup> ERTRAC, EARPA, and the EGVI4for2Zero and CCAM Association representing the private side of the 2Zero and CCAM Partnerships.

<sup>2</sup> COM/2025/95, *Industrial Action Plan for the European Automotive Sector*

<sup>3</sup> COM/2025/30, *A Competitiveness Compass for the EU*

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## ➤ Autonomous and accountable governance structure:

- A single governing body empowered to define programme priorities, budget distribution, and select implementation instruments.
- The governance structure should include all relevant actors from private sector, research community and public authorities.

## ➤ Inclusive and flexible project participation:

- Open access to a broad range of stakeholders, including SMEs and start-ups, supported by flexible implementation schemes.

## ➤ Synergies with other funding programmes:

- Effective coordination/interaction with partnerships, initiatives, and funding programmes, both at European and national level (such as IPCEI or CEF).

## ➤ Flagship initiatives:

- In addition to the research and innovation projects directly performed under the partnership, the partnership should also initiate/support/contribute to “flagship initiatives” which go beyond pre-competitive research collaboration and aim to roll out innovation to the European society.

## Strategic Research and Innovation Priorities

The partnership should directly drive ambitious research and development in areas critical to the future of **clean mobility**, **digital mobility**, and **advanced design and manufacturing**, including:

### ➤ Clean Mobility:

- Electromobility and grid integration.
- Use of renewable energy carriers.
- Battery and hydrogen technologies.

### ➤ Digital Mobility:

- Connectivity, Automated Mobility, Services.

### ➤ Design, Manufacturing and Production:

- Innovative, flexible and automated manufacturing, development, methods and tools

### ➤ SDV, E/E & software architecture, building blocks and interfaces.

### ➤ AI supported design, manufacturing, vehicles functions and services + Data + cybersecurity.

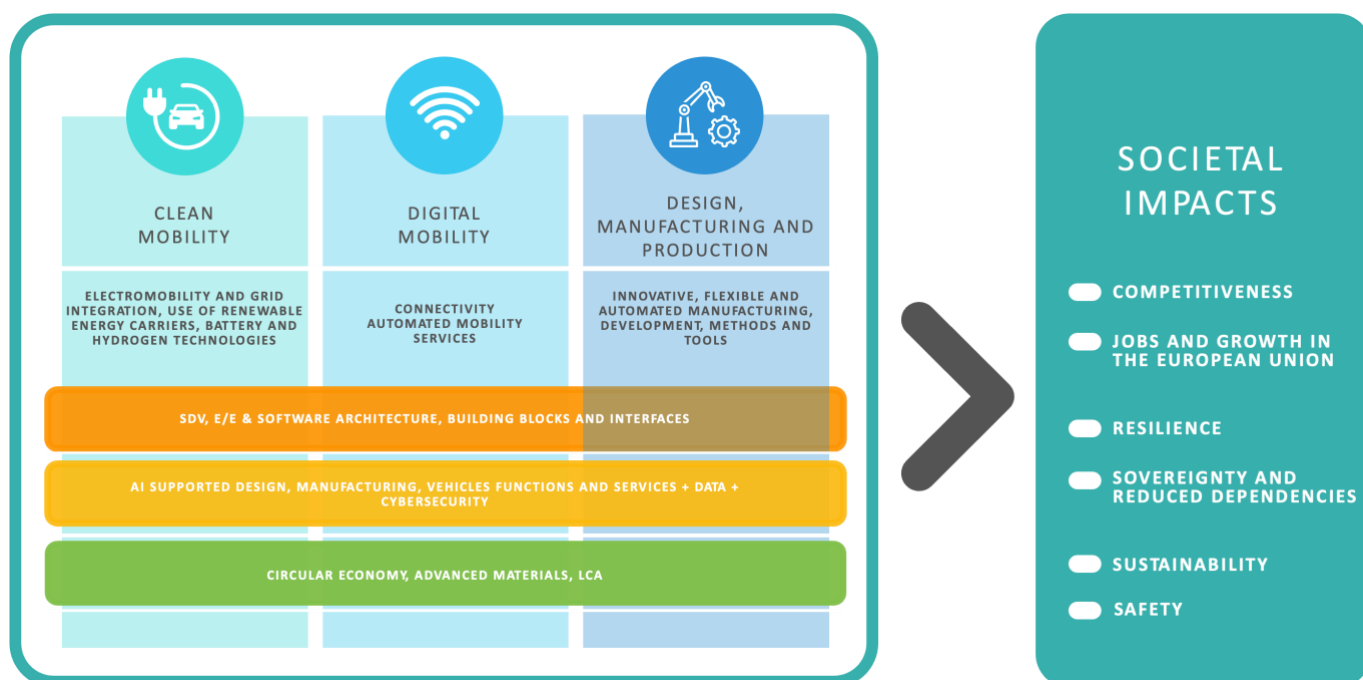
### ➤ Circular Economy, advanced materials, life cycle assessment (LCA).

We are confident that this Partnership will serve the European Union’s policy objectives and deliver strong societal impacts, for competitiveness, jobs and growth in the EU, as well as resilience, sovereignty, reduction of dependencies, and sustainability.

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## Key Elements for future Competitiveness of Automotive Industry



## Simplification of the Partnership landscape in the next MFF / Competitiveness Fund / FP10

