



# **EARPA SPRING MEETING 2026**

**3-4 MARCH 2026**

**DoubleTree by Hilton Brussels City**

Rue Gineste 3, 1210 Brussels

**Programme**



**EUROPEAN AUTOMOTIVE  
RESEARCH PARTNERS ASSOCIATION**

# EARPA Spring Meeting 2026



Day 1: Tuesday, 3 March 2026

## PROGRAMME

08:30 - 09:00: Welcome Coffee

Lobby

09:00 - 11:00

FORESIGHT GROUPS

EARPA MEMBERS ONLY

Connectivity Automation  
Safety (CAS)

Powertrains and Energy  
Systems (PES)

Integrated Product  
and Process  
Development (IPPD)

*Sycamore Ballroom 1*

*Sycamore Ballroom 2*

*Chestnut Room (1st floor)*

11:00 - 11:30: Coffee Break

Lobby

11:30 - 13:30

FORESIGHT GROUPS

EARPA MEMBERS ONLY

Mobility for People and Goods (MPG)

Collaboration and  
Project Management (CPM)

*Sycamore Ballroom 1*

*Sycamore Ballroom 2*

13:30 - 14:30: Lunch

Lobby

14:30 - 16:00

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GROUPS

EARPA MEMBERS ONLY

Zero Emission Road Transport (ZERT)+  
Renewable Energy (RES) + Impact of  
transport on environment and human  
health (THE)

Made in Europe (MiE)

*Sycamore Ballroom 1*

*Sycamore Ballroom 2*

16:00 - 16:30: Coffee Break

Lobby

16:30 - 18:00

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GROUPS

EARPA MEMBERS ONLY

Connected Cooperative Automated Mobility  
(CCAM) + Safety (SAFE) + Multimodal and  
Sustainable Transport Systems for  
passengers and goods (MSTS)

Batteries (BAT)

*Sycamore Ballroom 1*

*Sycamore Ballroom 2*

18:30 - 21:00 NETWORKING RECEPTION (LOBBY AREA)

Open to all

Join us for an evening full of conversation, networking & fun

09:15 - 10:30

### EARPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EARPA Member  
Representatives only

10:30 - 11:00: Welcome Coffee

Lobby

11:00 - 11:25

### PLENARY SESSION

Sycamore Ballroom

- **Michele De Gennaro**, EARPA President: Opening words
- **Andrea De Candido**, Policy Officer, DG RTD, European Commission

11:25 - 12:10

### PANEL ON AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES IN THE EU

Moderator: **Adrià Ferrer**, Head of Innovation, Applus+ IDIADA

- **Pierfrancesco Maran**, Member of the European Parliament (Recording)
- **Stefan Bogensberger**, Policy Officer, DG CNCT, European Commission
- **Marzena Jougonoux**, Policy Officer, DG RTD, European Commission
- **Charlotte Eisner**, Head of Commercialization and Corporate Partnerships, Bolt

12:10 - 12:45

### MEET THE SPEAKERS FORESIGHT GROUP UPDATES

- **Margriet Van Schijndel**, TU/e: Connectivity Automation Safety
- **Bernhard Brandstätter**, Virtual Vehicle: Powertrains and Energy Systems
- **Thilo Bein**, Fraunhofer LBF: Integrated Product And Process Development
- **Magnus Granstrom**, Chalmers: Mobility for People and Goods
- **Verena Wagenhofer**, AVL: Collaboration and Project Management

12:45 - 14:00: Lunch

Lobby

14:00 - 15:30

### NAVIGATING ECONOMIC & POLITICAL SHIFTS IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR: CONSEQUENCES FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Moderator: **Peter Urban**, EARPA Vice-President

- **Stefan Deix**, Director, EUCAR
- **Oihana Otaegui**, Head of ITS and Engineering, Vicomtech
- **Bert Pluymers**, Senior Industrial Research Manager, KU Leuven
- **Horst Pflügl**, Vice President Research Coordination, AVL
- **Thilo Bein**, Head of Knowledge Management, Fraunhofer LBF
  
- **Closing remarks from the EARPA President**