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Preparing the EU automotive industry and its workers for the transition to clean mobility

The Platform for electromobility, representing 45+ organisations from industry, civil society and cities, and across all transport modes, is releasing today a report carried out by the Boston Consulting Group on the impact of the shift to electric vehicles production on automotive jobs. This study deep dives into the opportunities and challenges for the transition of the automotive industry in the next 10 years. Accompanying workers through that transition will be key for the success of the industry and preparing them for the jobs of the future.

The automotive sector is a major employer facing the largest technological and skills transition it has ever known; from combustion engine (ICE)-powered vehicles to zero emission battery electric vehicles (BEVs). While sales of diesel and gasoline cars collapsed during the pandemic, electric vehicles saw a surge. The next ten years promise to be a time of massive changes but also new opportunities.

A major shift for European industries

2020 marked a crucial shift that will continue to accelerate: if last year approximately 80% of passenger vehicles produced in Europe were solely ICE-powered, this share will drop dramatically to below 5% in 2030. By that year, around 60% of cars produced will be pure EVs while another 36% will be hybrid EVs. This underlines the scale of the transformation facing Europe's largest industry. The [comprehensive study released today](#) looks at the impact on employment over the entire automotive supply chain, including OEMs, suppliers, and maintenance providers, and adjacent industries like equipment providers, fuel and electricity producers, and infrastructure. It covers 26 industries and 5.7 million jobs across Europe.

« The transition to electromobility is an opportunity for Europe to be a technology leader and provide employment opportunities. Only the regions and industries that embrace the shift to electromobility will be able to seize the opportunities created by this new ecosystem. There is a real danger that if the European automotive value chain does not accelerate and lead the transformation to zero emission vehicles, Europe will lose its head-start and competitiveness of the sector vis-à-vis other regions with negative consequences for future employment» said Arne Richters, Chair of the Platform for electromobility.

The report compares different scenarios for the future of the automotive industry as the sector is undergoing major transformations. It assesses the evolution of long-lasting trends in the industry (demography, market volume, automation & digitalisation, technology) along with the fast revolution of electromobility. It concludes that even with a transition to electromobility, employment will remain constant, therefore safeguarding the majority of automotive jobs in Europe.

The effects on employment in the core automotive sectors due to the product changes from the EV shift will be compensated by new jobs created by the electromobility ecosystem. For instance, an estimated 581,000 new jobs are created, also driven by the battery production and charging infrastructure sectors. However, some impacts will be felt at a local or regional level, so it is vital that governments provide policies to help those regions adapt.

Upskilling and reskilling workers for a fair transition

Today, the automotive industry and its suppliers are one of Europe's biggest employers. Transitioning to electromobility will change the need for the type of jobs required by the sector. *"The report estimates that by 2030 2.8 million workers will need to be hired and 2.4 million positions will have a changing job profile with different degrees of training needs to prepare them for future job demands. It is key to support workers in this transition to electromobility: the EU, governments and companies should prioritise programs that will invest in the education, training, upskilling and reskilling of the labour force to capitalise on new opportunities, raise the bar on employment conditions, to ensure no one is left behind. This is an investment for future generations and for the environment."* » continued Arne Richters.

The study also expects electromobility to act as a catalyst for further activities in adjacent sectors to that of the automotive industry. In the energy domain, we expect 60,000 new jobs will be created.

"This is a pivotal time in the history of the automotive sector. The next decade is a unique opportunity to reshape the future of our industry, to the benefit of the environment, the competitiveness of our economy and good working conditions for generations to come. We hope this report will give special insights to decision-makers in order to make electromobility a success" concluded Arne Richters.

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Press contact

Théo Fievet, Platform for electromobility coordinator,
theo@platformelectromobility.eu, +32 478 70 05 48

Spokesperson contact

Arne Richters, Chair of the Platform for electromobility, Head of Public Affairs & Communication at Allego.
arne.richters@allego.eu

More about the Platform for Electromobility

The Platform is a European alliance of over 45 producers, infrastructure managers, operators, transport users, cities and civil society organizations from across industries and transport modes. The Platform advocates the acceleration of electrification of all modes of transport, focusing on its numerous benefits, such as emission reduction, efficiency gains, support for technological innovation, jobs and growth through value creation in Europe as well as reducing Europe's energy dependence from fossil fuel imports. The vision of the Platform for electromobility is a sustainable, multimodal transport system in which people and goods are predominantly moved across land in Europe using sustainable electricity. For more information about the platform and its members, please visit: <https://www.platformelectromobility.eu/>