

Campagne Européenne  
pour la Liberté du Marché  
des Pièces de Rechange  
et de la Réparation Automobile

Die europäische Bewegung  
für die Freiheit  
des Kfz-Ersatzteile-  
und Kfz-Reparatur-Marktes

The European Campaign  
for the Freedom  
of the Automotive Parts  
and Repair Market



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **European Parliament paves the way for liberalising the market of vehicle spare parts in whole Europe and strengthens the rights of 260 million EU motorist consumers.**

**Brussels, 12 December.** The European Parliament today made an important step forward to solve the long pending “spare parts” issue.

In its plenary session in Strasbourg the Parliament voted with an overwhelming majority in favour of the Commission proposed Repairs Clause. In doing so it followed the proposals of its Legal Affairs Committee (JURI) steered by rapporteur Klaus-Heiner Lehne (PPE/DE).

The Repairs Clause strikes a fair balance between intellectual property protection and the need for free competition, the creation and finalisation of a single market and consumer protection. The clause inter alia safeguards 260 million EU vehicle owners, consumers, from being subjected to a spare parts and repair monopoly.

ECAR Chairman *Louis Shakinovsky* welcomes this step forward: “For more than 16 years ECAR has accompanied this dossier and convincingly demonstrated that the Repairs Clause is legally, economically and socially the right solution. Today’s vote sends out a strong signal to the Council of Ministers to join in and to adopt a solution that Europe so urgently needs and has been so long awaited”.

As a concession to the mighty car industry Parliament decided to grant a “transition” period of 5 years for implementing the Repairs Clause in those Member States which currently still provide for design protection of spare parts. “There is no good reason for that”, Mr. Shakinovsky said, “because it would give vehicle makers an opportunity in countries which have not yet adopted the repairs clause ‘to litigate competition to death’ during this interim phase which may make the Repairs Clause ineffective in practice in those countries when it eventually comes into force”.

ECAR therefore requests the Council of Ministers - above all the minority of Member States that still seem to oppose this fair, sensible and broadly accepted solution - to harmonise the law in Europe by finally adopting the Repairs Clause without any further delay.

***For more information, please contact  
ECAR Coordination Secretariat, c/o FIGIEFA on +32 2 761 95 10 or at [figiefa@figiefa.eu](mailto:figiefa@figiefa.eu)***

Established in 1993, the European Campaign for the Freedom of the Automotive Parts and Repair Market (ECAR) is an alliance of 10 independent EU organisations representing vehicle parts producers, distributors, independent repairers, the European motor insurance industry, a large cross section of small and medium-sized enterprises as well as the 260 million motoring consumers in the European Union. ECAR’s main objective is to promote free competition and to prevent vehicle makers from monopolising the vehicle spare parts market through abuse of design protection. For more information, visit [www.ecar-eu.com](http://www.ecar-eu.com).