

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**

### **Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (ECON) of the European Parliament votes in favour of free competition in the vehicle spare parts and repair market**

**Brussels, 13 July, 2005** - The Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (ECON) of the European Parliament today took an important step forward in adopting the European Commission's proposal to allow free competition in the market for visible automotive spare parts and consumer choice in the repair of vehicles. Annually, this market is worth between 12 and 13 billion Euro in the 25 Member States of the European Union.

The Committee voted in favour of the 'Repairs Clause', which gives vehicle manufacturers full protection over the design of their new vehicles, but prevents the creation of spare parts monopolies. Based on the report of Rapporteur, Dr. Wolf Klinz (ALDE/Germany) and the positive proposals of Dr. Christoph Konrad (EPP/Germany) and Antolin Sanchez Presedo (PSE/Spain), the Committee supported the liberalisation of the market for visible spare parts by an overwhelming majority.

ECAR chairman Ulf Lemor welcomed the decision, "ECAR appreciates this positive signal in favour of free competition in the vehicle servicing and repair market. The Committee's opinion protects innovation, favours investment and sustains employment in the EU, guarantees affordable mobility for 250 million European motorists, strengthens the competitiveness of the automotive sector as a whole and offers thousands of SMEs a chance to compete."

The Committee's vote gives a clear signal to the other involved Committees (the Legal Affairs Committee and the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection) that they should also safeguard free competition and contribute to the completion of a true Single Market when they resume their deliberations after the Parliament's summer break.

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#### **About ECAR**

*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 250 million motorists 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.*

#### **More information**

For more information, visit [www.ecar-eu.com](http://www.ecar-eu.com), or contact the ECAR co-ordination secretariat in Brussels: ECAR co-ordination secretariat, c/o FIGIEFA, tel +32 2 778 62 76, mail: [figiefa.secretariat@federauto.be](mailto:figiefa.secretariat@federauto.be)