

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

Internal Market and Consumer Committee (IMCO) of the European Parliament votes in favour of liberalisation of the vehicle spare parts and repair market

Brussels, 14 December 2005 - The Committee for Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) of the European Parliament took this week an important decision: It adopted the European Commission's proposal to allow free competition in the market for visible automotive spare parts and free 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 in the after-sales market. Based on the report of Prof. Medina Ortega (PSE/Spain), the Committee supported the liberalisation of the market for visible spare parts by an overwhelming majority. Amendments suggesting to delay or prevent the adoption of the 'Repairs Clause' were rejected.

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 and strengthens the competitiveness of SME's operating in the automotive parts and repair market."

The Committee's vote accords with the recommendation already given by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) in July 2005. The concurrent opinion of the 2 Committees is a clear signal to the Legal Affairs Committee (JURI), which will resume its more than one year deliberations in January 2006, to join in the objective to safeguard free competition and to finally complete the Single Market in the automotive sector.

* * * * *

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, 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