

European Aluminium supports swift actions for the recovery of the automotive sector at the European level

Aluminium is a part of many large value chains and the largest of them being the automotive and transport sector. This sector alone represents 36% of the aluminium market. As the automotive industry is facing a severe slowdown or is even stopping production, the aluminium production in Europe (alumina, primary, recycling, semi-fabrication and some final products) is at risk.

Today, European produced cars contain on average 180 kg of aluminium (around 12% of the vehicle weight). Thanks to its light-weight properties, aluminium is the perfect material to make vehicles more efficient. As an essential supplier to the automotive industry, the European aluminium producers consequently rely on a rapid recovery of the entire automotive sector. Among the key measures¹ supported by the EU automotive sector to support its re-start, European aluminium producers would put the focus on the following three measures:

1. Vehicle renewal programme

With the uncertainty surrounding the market, European Aluminium supports a vehicle renewal scheme focussed on incentivising the sales of the most environmentally friendly vehicles, both clean ICEs and electric-powered vehicles. We also recommend the introduction of a scrappage premium for old cars, given that these cars are entirely scrapped and recycled in Europe.

Renewal program should be implemented swiftly to restore consumer's confidence. Uncertainties on the timing of such measures would only further delay the re-start of the economy.

2. Swift reopening of type-approval authorities

Many type approval facilities in Europe are closed or operating at a reduced speed today. This makes it impossible for car manufacturers to type approve new vehicles that they want to launch on the market. We, therefore, ask that the EU Commission and the Member States work for a swift reopening or ramping up of these facilities, so no delays in checks for regulatory requirements of new vehicles will occur.

3. Kickstart the investments on charging and refuelling infrastructure

To support the demand for alternative powertrains, the pilot initiative on "1 million charging points and refuelling stations across the EU for all vehicle types", including high-power charging and hydrogen refuelling stations for heavy-duty vehicles should start immediately. Rapid deployment of charging and refuelling infrastructure is

¹ 25 actions for a successful re-start of the EU's automotive industry, ACEA, May 2020.

<https://www.acea.be/publications/article/paper-25-actions-for-a-successful-restart-of-the-eus-automotive-sector>

considered an indispensable prerequisite to the market uptake of alternative powertrains to support the dual objectives of economic recovery and climate policy.

Kickstarting those investments will also help reducing risk for further reduction of aluminium smelting capacity in Europe as it happened on a permanent basis during the financial crisis.

These measures to support the recovery of the automotive industry are part of European Aluminium's call for a [sustainable industrial recovery plan](#), which provides a set of concrete measures that the EU Commission and the Member States could take to help the aluminium industry going through the crisis and mitigating the risks of a more severe impact on our value chain. The purpose of those measures should be to re-establish the confidence of European citizens and consumers in the overall economy, stimulate demand and make our value chain more resilient, competitive and less dependent on other regions.

About European Aluminium:

European Aluminium, founded in 1981 and based in Brussels, is the voice of the aluminium industry in Europe. We actively engage with decision-makers and the wider stakeholder community to promote the outstanding properties of aluminium, secure growth and optimise the contribution our metal can make to meeting Europe's sustainability challenges. Through environmental and technical expertise, economic and statistical analysis, scientific research, education and sharing of best practices, public affairs and communication activities, European aluminium promotes the use of aluminium as a material with permanent properties that is part of the solution to achieving sustainable goals, while maintaining and improving the image of the industry, of the material and its applications among their stakeholders. Our 80+ members include primary aluminium producers; downstream manufacturers of extruded, rolled and cast aluminium; producers of recycled aluminium and national aluminium associations are representing more than 600 plants in 30 European countries. Aluminium products are used in a wide range of markets, including automotive, transport, high-tech engineering, building, construction and packaging.

For further information, please contact: Coline Lavorel, Director Public Affairs and Communications, lavorel@european-aluminium.eu, +32 484 429 574/ Patrik Ragnarsson, Senior Manager Automotive and Transport, ragnarsson@european-aluminium.eu, + 46 73 800 98 88.