

DRIVES NEWSLETTER – POLICY UPDATE

I. Automotive Sector

I.1 Following the previous newsletter

- ⇒ **Sustainable and smart mobility** – Waiting for Commission’s adoption in the 4th Quarter of 2020
- ⇒ **Evaluation of the 2011 White Paper on Transport** – Waiting for Commission’s adoption in the 4th Quarter of 2020

II. Looking Ahead

According to the [Advanced technologies for industry Sectoral watch : technological trends in the automotive industry](#) - European Commission’s report from July 2020 - advanced companies seem to have trouble in recruiting staff with adequate competencies in information communication technology (ICT). According to estimates, approximately 90% of all jobs today require basic digital skills in order to be able to perform their jobs. However, 20% of the EU population and one third of the working population lack these digital skills. In order to solve the EU's challenge of skill shortages in the automotive industry, several aspects are to be considered

To tackle and to improve these issues:

- ⇒ A framework for standardised job roles and associated skills is necessary;
- ⇒ Labour mobility and transferability need to be improved across the value chain;
- ⇒ A better functioning apprenticeship market should be developed in the EU;
- ⇒ An improved recognition of nonformal and informal learning is recommended

⇒ **Review of the Industrial Strategy**

In her State of the Union speech, the President of the European Commission announced that a Communication on updating the new industrial strategy for Europe will be launched.

III. Skilling and Re-skilling

III..1 Policy measures

⇒ **On the 30th of September, the European Commission published the [communication “on achieving the European Education Area by 2025”](#).**

The European Education Area is underpinned by six dimensions: quality, inclusion and gender equality, green and digital transitions, teachers, higher education, a stronger Europe in the world.

The Communication sets out the means and milestones to achieve the European Education Area by 2025, supported by Europe's Recovery Plan (NextGenerationEU) and the Erasmus+ Programme. In addition, it proposes a framework for cooperation with Member States and engagement with education stakeholders, including a reporting and analysis structure, with agreed education targets, to encourage and track reforms. **Efforts to establish the European Education Area will work in synergy with the European Skills Agenda, the renewed Vocational Education and Training policy and the European Research Area.**

The communication is very much focused on skills, on the importance of acquiring basic, digital and transversal skills in order to be better prepared for the green and digital transitions. It is, for example said on page 7: *“Robust and inclusive lifelong learning strategies should allow those who have left early to re-enter education, and those who need it should be able to access higher education and VET programmes to acquire or update skills that the jobs of tomorrow require, also for older age”*.

On page 59 says that: *“The proposed European Education Area targets and those on adult learning, VET and employability presented in the Skills Agenda and the proposal for the Council Recommendation on Vocational Education and Training complement and mutually reinforce each other, while covering the full spectrum of education and training. The Commission will regularly review progress toward these sets of targets and, where necessary, propose their extension and revision for 2030”*

⇒ **On the 30th of September, the European Commission published the [Digital Education Action Plan](#)**

The Action Plan has two long-term strategic priorities: (i) fostering the development of a high-performing digital education ecosystem and (ii) enhancing digital competences for the

digital transformation. In order to strengthen the cooperation and exchange in digital education at EU level, the Commission will create a European Digital Education Hub, which will foster collaboration and synergies between policy areas relevant to digital education, create a network of national advisory services and strengthen the dialogue between stakeholders from the public and private sector.

Both initiatives will also feed into the third European Education Summit, which the Commission will host online on 10 December to bring Ministers and key stakeholders together to discuss how to make education and training fit for the digital era

III.2 Following the previous newsletter

⇒ [Communication “European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience”](#)- In the Parliament, EMPL is the responsible committee.

⇒ **Also with relevance for the sector is the Just Transition Fund, which will, according to the [Sustainable Europe Investment Plan European Green Deal Investment Plan](#) support the reskilling of workers in view of equipping them with the necessary skills to take on new jobs** – On Wednesday 16 September the European Parliament adopted the Report on the establishment of the Fair Transition Fund (JTF) with 417 votes in favour, 141 against and 138 abstentions. The European Parliament called for a substantial increase in the resources of the JTF under the EU's multiannual budget for 2021-2027 (25 billion compared to 11 billion proposed by the Commission). This amount should be topped up by the 32 billion proposed under the EU's recovery programme. The first triilogue took place on the 24th of September.

⇒ [Communication: Shaping Europe’s digital future -](#) Improving education and skills is a key part of the overall vision for digital transformation in Europe. European companies need digitally savvy employees to iStock, sompong_tom thrive in the global technology-driven marketplace. In turn, workers need digital competences to succeed

II.3 Looking Ahead

⇒ **European Pact for Skills** – Planned for the German Presidency and presented on 10th November, during the European Vocational Skills Week 2020.