



VIER MOTOREN FÜR EUROPA
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Analysis of the Covid-19 situation, consequences for the mobility sector and countermeasures *The position of the Four Motors for Europe*

Milan, 25th September 2020

In close cooperation with the representatives of the working group "Electric Mobility and Future Transport Technologies":



In the frame of the renewed dialogue among the Four Motors for Europe - the network gathering the European regions of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Baden-Württemberg, Catalonia and Lombardy - the representatives of the working group "Electric Mobility and Future Transport Technologies" continued to meet to discuss and analyze the Covid-19 situation and its consequences for the mobility and automotive sector. Experts shared priorities and proposals on the ways of counteracting the effects of Covid-19 on the mobility sector and brought their ideas to the attention of the four regional governments.

There was unanimity among the partners, that particularly in times of crises like the Covid-19 pandemic, **innovation in new mobility solutions is the driver for growth and will contribute to overcome the current crisis and to make Europe more crisis-resilient in the future.** The working group Electric Mobility within the Four Motors for Europe is aware of that necessity and is ready to submit relevant project proposals. The four regions believe that green mobility will be even more demanded after the current crisis. Especially since investment resources will be significantly limited as a result of the crisis, adequate regional, national and European funding in the framework of the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework is an indispensable prerequisite for innovation projects, even if some of the funds will probably be redistributed to health and Covid-19 research. In this context, it is important to know, in which direction the EII might reprioritize its innovation scenarios.

The Four Motors' working group agreed on the fact that this **crisis is a complex challenge for society, politics and economy in Europe. But it offers also a perspective for innovation in new areas of green mobility.** Besides the existing innovation topics such as alternative drivetrains, autonomous and connected driving, charging infrastructure, battery technology, alternative fuels, multimodality, increased occupancy rates, recycling of the so-called critical components of batteries, solar panels and mills, remanufacturing, reverse logistics and use of recycled and/or bio-based materials etc. completely new needs and fields of innovation were identified during the crisis. Current innovations should additionally focus on health considerations and medical resilience as transversal issues in the field of future mobility technologies, e.g. innovative surfaces and ventilation systems or quick disinfection concepts for car or micro-mobility sharing and public transport

- otherwise especially public transport but also sharing concepts are expected to be less frequented in the future due to risk of infection.

The working group is convinced that a **pan-European market with restructured, redundant and fully operational European supply chains is the answer to the current crisis.** Even though the supply chains were interrupted and will take at least two years to recover and despite some remaining uncertainties regarding demand in the upcoming months, European supply chains will allow the participating regions to emerge stronger from the crisis. European supply chains also have the advantage of guaranteeing a much greener production of decarbonised "circular cars" due to the existing energy mix in Europe unlike the generation of energy in other regions of the world like China.

In this context, even though the pandemic is not synchronised geographically, it is important to **synchronise the economic upturn in the different European countries and regions** and to **provide the European suppliers with planning security regarding the product development plans** of the car manufacturers in the upcoming months and years.

In order to foster production and sales in green mobility, the Four Motors' working group urges policy decision makers to **adopt purchase grants for green vehicles, in the framework of the desirable policy for renewal of obsolete fleets.**

Milan, 25th September 2020

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

Astrid Baud-Roche, member of the Regional Council in charge of Cross- border relations



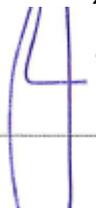
Baden-Württemberg

Karin Scheiffele, Director for International Affairs, Cross Border Cooperation, Federal Affairs, Development Cooperation and Protocol, State Ministry



Generalitat de Catalunya

Bernat Solé i Barril, Minister for Foreign Action, Institutional Relations and Transparency



Regione Lombardia

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