

French Mobility Sector

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French Mobility Sector's Contribution – Review of the Communication on IPCEI

French Mobility is an entity based in Brussels and representing the French automotive and mobility sector to the European institutions. It brings together the French Automotive Industry Platform (PFA) and the four associated competitiveness clusters (CARA, ID4CAR, NextMove, Pôle Véhicule du Futur). Our contribution will summarise the position of the entire sector (including major groups and SMEs), that was developed through an internal consultation shared with all members of the PFA and the competitiveness clusters.

Our contribution is based on an online survey that was circulated among members of the whole automotive and mobility sector. For this consultation, we collected 25 contributions: 23 from SMEs, 2 from large groups.

The French Mobility Sector is generally in favour of a slight increase in the minimum number of participating Member States. This would improve the choice of partners and open up the scope of the project. However, it should be noted that this could make the decision-making process for the submission of future IPCEIs more difficult. Imposing a too high minimum number of Member States could risk making the preparation of proposals longer and more complex.

Our sector is also generally in favour of a better participation of SMEs in the IPCEI. First, the SME actors underline their difficulty to be associated with large groups in these projects, the latter having a tendency to turn to peers. It would be interesting to think about a way of compensating for a situation that is systematically unfavourable to SMEs that play a key role in value chains. Many SMEs suffer from a lack of information and time to deal with the administrative complexity of IPCEI files. Our sector is nevertheless aware that an IPCEI is a project targeted on a strategic value chain and requiring major investments and is therefore by nature driven by large groups.

Our sector is unanimously in agreement with the introduction of mentions of recent EU policy priorities in the IPCEI Communication. The European Green Deal and the New Industrial Strategy for Europe stand out among the objectives to be mentioned as a priority. It should be noted, however, that the specific inclusion of certain EU policy objectives excludes or disadvantages projects that do not directly address them, even though their interest could be proven.