

German Mayors calling for a strong automotive industry location

- For a sustainable automotive industry and a halt to deindustrialisation,
- In favour of an automotive industry as a driver of innovation in the global transformation process and in taking major steps towards climate neutrality,
- For internationally competitive location conditions,
- We support all climate-friendly drive technologies equally.

Dear President of the European Commission,

Dear Commissioners,

We, the mayors of major automotive locations in Germany, are turning to you to draw your attention to the acute danger of deindustrialisation. The automotive industry is a key sector for growth, innovation and prosperity in Europe. We are therefore calling for immediate measures to secure its international competitiveness and preserve its industrial substance.

Jobs and value creation in the industrial sector continue to provide the basis of our prosperity. The automotive industry plays a vital role in this. Car brands such as Mercedes, BMW, Audi, Volkswagen and Porsche do not only stand for economic success, but also embody the efficiency and innovative spirit of our companies and employees. However, this key industry is gradually eroding - with far-reaching consequences for Germany and Europe.

Fewer and fewer cars are built in their home base. Manufacturers and suppliers are relocating their production sites, cutting jobs or closing production sites altogether. This development is

jeopardising the basis of our prosperity. Today, Germany is the G7 member registering the lowest growth rate.

The automotive industry is facing tremendous challenges: It has to achieve high climate ambitions while securing its competitiveness in a globalised market characterised by increasing trade barriers and market distortions.

Much confidence in the future of this industry has been destroyed, sometimes due to emotionally loaded debates and decisions as well as sudden changes to the funding framework. At the same time, there is an urgent need for investment in new industrial capacities in the field of e-mobility, in the expansion of fast-charging stations as well as hydrogen production and supply and, in particular, in the expansion of the electricity grids.

The social dimension must not be neglected either: Vehicles must remain accessible for broad sections of the population.

Economic dynamism emerges from innovation, not from restrictions. Europe needs yet again to develop a genuine performance and competition culture.

However, our automotive locations are increasingly falling behind - not only due to high costs, but also due to excessive bureaucracy, long approval procedures, lack of available industrial areas and an increasing shortage of skilled labour.

In addition, costs are rocketing into billions because of penalty payments. The current CO₂ fleet limits do not take sufficiently into account the industry's transformation cycles. Market penetration for innovations such as synthetic fuels and hydrogen take time. Suspending the penalties will enable planning security and support investment in low-emission technologies.

We mayors are calling on the EU Commission to

1. make a clear commitment to the automotive and supply industry as a key sector for our business location and thus for jobs, prosperity and stability!
2. be open towards innovative drive technology instead of banning combustion engines. In addition to electro-mobility, other climate-friendly drive types including plug-in hybrids should be allowed in principle.
3. create a level playing field in Europe so that an export-orientated and globally focussed automotive industry invests here again. Stand up for open borders and markets, but only with fair rules for everyone!
4. suspend the fines imposed on car manufacturers by the EU for failing to meet the CO₂ fleet limits.
5. promote innovative strength and technical progress! A reliable and predictable funding framework must be established for research and development in the automotive industry. This includes the promotion of hydrogen drives and new battery technologies with the corresponding infrastructure to ensure a sustainable and competitive automotive industry in Europe.
6. massively foster the expansion of fast-charging stations and electricity grids. This also requires a dedicated European funding programme.
7. acknowledge that the transformation process cannot be at the expense of citizens and local authorities.

**Europe needs a strong, competitive automotive industry.
This requires your decisive action now.**

Yours sincerely



Uwe Conradt

Lord Mayor
of
Saarbrücken



i.a. ZF

More than
30,000 jobs
in the region



Dr. Frank Nopper

Lord Mayor
of
Stuttgart



Mercedes-Benz, Bosch,
Porsche, Mahle,
Daimler Truck AG

More than
220,000 jobs
in the region



Dennis Weilmann

Lord Mayor
of
Wolfsburg



Volkswagen AG

Approx.
90,000 jobs
in the region



Simon Blümcke

Lord Mayor
of
Friedrichshafen



ZF

Approx.
19,000 jobs
in the region

A broad alliance supports the initiative 'German Mayors for a strong automotive industry location'

Today, the initiative is supported by the Lord Mayors and Mayors:

Ms. Eva Weber, Augsburg	Various companies, 14,000 jobs in Augsburg
Dr. Stefan Belz, Böblingen	
Mr. Steffen Scheller, Brandenburg an der Havel	approx. 2,050 jobs in Brandenburg an der Havel and Region
Mr. Sven Schulze, Chemnitz	Volkswagen AG, 10,000 jobs in Chemnitz (directly and indirectly concerned)
Mr. Armin Grassinger, Dingolfing	BMW Group, approx. 30,000 jobs in Dingolfing-Landau County
Mr. Thomas Kufen, Essen	Opmobilty, Spicer Gelenkwellenbau, TMD, Trimet Aluminium, TK Automotive Technology approx. 2,400 jobs
Mr. Michael Pfeiffer, Gaggenau	Daimler Truck, more than 5, 000 jobs in Gaggenau
Mr. Harry Mergel, Heilbronn	AUDI AG, Läßple Automotive GmbH, thyssenkrupp Automotive Body Solutions GmbH, Vishay Semi- conductors, Hitachi Astemo, Amphenol Auto- motive, XL2 by Audi & Capgemini and more, approx. 85.000 jobs in the Heilbronn-Franken Region
Mr. Michael Forster, Homburg	
Dr. Michael Kern, Ingolstadt	AUDI AG, more than 40,000 jobs in Ingolstadt

Mr. Karsten Mußler, Kuppenheim	Mercedes Benz AG, approx. 1,200 jobs in Kuppenheim
Mr. Arne Moritz, Lippstadt	FORVIA HELLA, 11,000 jobs in the region
Mr. Steffen Hertwig, Neckarsulm	AUDI AG, approx. 85,000 jobs in the Heilbronn-Franken Region
Mr. Marcus König, Nürnberg	
Ms. Katharina Pötter, Osnabrück	Various companies, 4,500 jobs in Osnabrück County
Mr. Jürgen Dupper, Passau	Various companies, approx. 5,500 jobs in Passau
Ms. Monika Müller, Rastatt	Mercedes-Benz, approx. 24,000 jobs throughout the County
Mr. Patrick Burghardt, Rüsselsheim am Main	Stellantis/Opel, approx. 10, 000 jobs in Rüsselsheim am Main
Mr. Marc Speicher, Saarlouis	
Mr. Richard Arnold, Schwäbisch Gmünd	Robert Bosch Automotive Steering GmbH, approx. 13,000 jobs in the region
Mr. Sebastian Remelé, Schweinfurt	ZF, Schäffler, SKF, Bosch-Rexroth, approx. 30,000 jobs in Schweinfurt and in the region
Dr. Bernd Vöhringer, Sindelfingen	Mercedes-Benz, more than 40,000 jobs
Prof. Ulli Meyer, St. Ingbert	VOIT, approx. 3,000 jobs (directly and indirectly concerned)
Mr. Kai Abruszat, Stemwede	ZF, approx. 1,700 jobs in Stemwede

Ms. Constance Arndt, Zwickau

VW, min. 30,000 jobs