



## **Working Agreement on a Strategic Partnership for a Just and Sustainable Transition of European Automotive Regions**

This Working Agreement has been reached between the Automotive Regions Alliance ("ARA"), the Interregional Group "Future of the Automotive Industry" of the European Committee of the Regions ("CoRAI") and Automotive Skills Alliance ("ASA") to jointly ensure a just and sustainable transition of the European automotive regions through cooperation between the three parties and a collaborative approach towards the challenges of the automotive-mobility ecosystem. They share the common goal of supporting each other, taking advantage of opportunities to act together, and jointly representing and advocating the following objectives to the European institutions and third parties.

WHEREAS the parties agree to:

1. Jointly advocate for and support reskilling and upskilling of the regional workforce to avoid job losses, as well as to monitor the supply and demand of relevant skills and anticipate future demands<sup>1</sup> while supporting the objectives of Green Deal and on the basis of a territorial impact assessment;
2. Help to ensure continuous, sustainable and pragmatic EU-wide cooperation by providing and facilitating political exchange between regions, industry, educational institutions, policymakers, and other relevant stakeholders to speed up the green and digital transition of the automotive and mobility sector;
3. Enhance the skills agenda and Just Transition framework through a bottom-up approach highlighting the regional challenges and appropriate region-specific transformation strategies;
4. Act together in representing the regional dimension at EU level and facilitate a joint approach towards the EU institutions; furthermore, refine the key performance indicators (KPI) framework proposed by the Route 35 Platform in order to reflect the regional dimension;
5. Utilise the ASA supply of up-to-date skills knowledge to strengthen regions' readiness for the upcoming transformation, continuously analyse key trends in the automotive, supply and service sector, define the skills and job profiles needed in the future, analyse the offer of available trainings and identify skill gaps;
6. Recognise the importance of training and education for all automotive and supply chain regions, advocate for the need of mutual recognition of vocational and professional degrees across the EU and underline the role of the ASA in creation of a much-needed EU-wide framework for job profiles to manage the transition of the regional labour force;

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<sup>1</sup> [Leipzig Declaration of the Automotive Regions Alliance.](#)

7. Support regional cooperation through fostering strategic regional projects and best practice exchange among automotive regions while taking into account the asymmetric social and economic impact on regions involved around Europe;
8. Jointly advocating for the establishment of a Just Transition Mechanism for the most affected automotive regions to support especially SMEs and the supply industry and for the optimised use of EU funds supplementing each other and national funding to encounter the variety of regional challenges with maximum flexibility;
9. Utilise the CoRAI and its members to push the shared topics within the Committee of the Regions plenary and their commissions and towards the European institutions in Brussels to help make a successful transition the priority for the present and the next European Commission.
10. Utilise the ARA and its member regions as a political network to promote the shared objectives within the regions, EU Member States and at EU level; in this respect, especially the annual high-level meetings achieve political and public attention due to the ARA's liaison with regional governments.

THUS SIGNED by:

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