

News Flash

Benjamin Krieger to become CLEPA's Secretary General as of September 2022

- **CLEPA members firmly opt for strength and continuity to navigate challenging times for the sector**
- **Mr Krieger brings over 15 years of experience in EU affairs, the last four as CLEPA Head of Government Affairs**
- **CLEPA General Assembly affirms leadership changes and new members to the association**



CLEPA, the European Association of Automotive Suppliers, has appointed Mr Benjamin Krieger as new Secretary General as of 1 September 2022, succeeding Ms Sigrid de Vries. Mr Krieger, a German national, has been CLEPA's Head of Government Affairs since 2018, and worked in various positions in Brussels since 2007.

Speaking at the CLEPA General Assembly, held in Brussels on 9 June, Mr Thorsten Muschal, CLEPA President and EVP Sales & Program Management at Forvia Group said, "Since his first days at CLEPA, Benjamin Krieger has shown strong leadership and profound understanding of European policies, as well as of complex technical and political aspects shaping the daily reality of global automotive supply chains. Benjamin has worked closely with Sigrid and the association members on strategic matters, and proven extraordinary capacity to anticipate and react to industry needs. With this appointment, the CLEPA membership firmly opts for strength and continuity to navigate the highly challenging times for our sector. I'm convinced Benjamin will further

strengthen the voice of the organisation.”

Benjamin Krieger adds, “I am very much looking forward to take on this new challenge, working together with the CLEPA team and the membership to promote the interests of this important industry for Europe. The mobility transition represents both a huge challenge and opportunity, which CLEPA will continue to help shape with a solutions-oriented approach. I warmly thank Sigrid de Vries for her leadership and am confident we will continue to collaborate also in the future.”

[As reported](#) on 1 June, Ms de Vries will leave CLEPA on 31 August to become Director General of ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers Association in Brussels. She adds, “I wish Benjamin and all the team success in this new chapter. CLEPA is well positioned with strong competence and culture in the secretariat, and highly engaged members. We’ll now work on a smooth transition over the next few months.”

Benjamin Krieger has led the government affairs team of CLEPA for over four years, focusing on carbon and pollutant emissions standards, the wider sustainability agenda, digitalisation of mobility, international trade, and competitiveness. Originally from Germany, Mr Krieger has been working in the EU policy sphere for 15 years, with stations as Head of Office and Press Spokesperson for a delegation of MEPs in the European Parliament and advising businesses and associations as a consultant for strategic political communication.

CLEPA General Assembly 2022: CLEPA consolidates its role as proactive voice representing automotive suppliers

After two years of online meetings, CLEPA held an in-person General Assembly meeting in Brussels, welcoming more than 60 participants, representing 12 national associations and around 45 corporate and associate members.

The meeting was opened by CLEPA President, Thorsten Muschal, who highlighted that “Automotive suppliers have spent the last two years proactively responding to supply chain disruptions and chip shortages caused by the impact of COVID-19. The current inflation period with massively increased costs, especially for energy, transport and materials, is intensifying an already stressed supply chain. However, we are a resilient

industry and always find a way to transform and adapt to changing circumstances, but the current pressures we are facing are unprecedented". He also confirmed the role that CLEPA has, as an authoritative voice, representing the automotive supplier community and providing value for its members.

A good part of the meeting was dedicated to two key topics affecting the sector. The ongoing discussion on climate regulation was at the centre of CLEPA policy work, specifically, the "Fit for 55" package including the legislative proposal for CO2 standards for cars and vans, where CLEPA calls for a mixed technology policy framework that supports innovation and provides flexibility.

Further, the ongoing issues on the supply chain disruptions that are still affecting the sector were highlighted. These challenges require a full commitment to collaboration and a flexible regulatory framework that facilitates investment and supports the ongoing transition.

The General Assembly also confirmed new and re-elected members of the CLEPA Board, and thirteen new members, as listed below.

New corporate members:

[ARaymond](#) - Software for automotive fastening systems

[Arriver](#) - Software brand, sensor perception and drive policy

[BASF](#) - innovative chemical solutions for sustainable mobility

[Bosal](#) - Powertrain, Chassis, Energy conversion

[Euro Group Laminations](#) - Production and distribution of melded parts and assemblies

[Huf Hülsbeck & Fürst](#) - Electronic control units, electronic steering locks

[Gentex](#) - Vision systems, sensors in-vehicle connectivity products

[Lear](#) - Seating and E-Systems

[smart eye](#) - Driver monitoring system

[Tobii](#) - Eye-tracking, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and advanced signal

processing

[Vitesco Technologies](#) - Powertrain technologies

New associate members:

[OBRIST](#) - Automotive powertrain systems, thermal management

[WayRay](#) - Application of holography to head-up displays

The meeting was followed by an extensive programme including a cocktail reception, and specific sessions for members on Research & Innovation policy, data spaces and technical regulations.

CLEPA publishes

Report of Activities 2021-2022

Taking stoke of what a turbulent year has brought to the association, CLEPA has published its 2021-2022 Report of Activities, presenting an overview of the association's main priorities, actions and achievements, as well as highlights in terms of activities, members' services and events.