FIGIEFA is working for you!
#1 October 2019
Cybersecurity/UN

FIGIEFA
Automotive Aftermarket Distributors

A vast majority of the legislative and regulatory framework for automotive aftermarket businesses is decided at European Union's or even at the United Nations' levels. As such, they have a direct business impact for you. A single (incorrect) word or sentence in a piece of legislation could immediately prevent independent workshops or parts wholesalers from remaining competitive or even drive them out of business. To avoid that risk, a strong political representation at EU's and UN's level is therefore needed.

FIGIEFA represents independent automotive parts distributors amongst European and international legislators. It monitors their legislative proposals and is in constant contact with them, with the aim to secure legislative framework conditions that allow you to operate your business in a market open by free competition and a fair level playing field.

FIGIEFA is working for you on

Cybersecurity

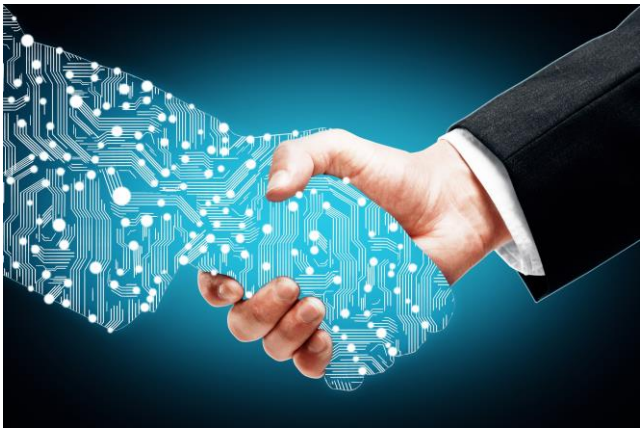
at United Nations' level

What is the issue?

With the rise of connected and automated driving on one side, and the increase of new cyberthreats on the other side, legislators have felt the need to increase the level of cybersecurity of vehicles. This is something which FIGIEFA is in favour of in order to protect motorists and unleash the potential of the market by ensuring confidence in new mobility technologies. It is indeed crucial to support the confidence of motorists in connected and automated driving to facilitate the uptake of this new mobility and benefit from its associated advantages in terms of environment and safety.

However, at the UNECE, a body of the United Nations dealing with mobility issues (among other topics), work has started to create a Regulation which is proposed to be finalised early next year already. It would then be referenced into the European Union as vehicle type approval legislation

The UNECE has established an inventory of all cyberthreats and potential mitigations. Any access to and communication with the vehicle being considered as a cyberthreat, access control mechanisms and practices are now required (e.g. for the OBD port, wireless connection...). However, the current draft legislation leaves it up to the vehicle manufacturers to establish discretionary, proprietary, self-declaratory and non harmonised cybersecurity measures. In the name of 'cybersecurity', this could result in a complete closure of the vehicle for your companies.



FIGIEFA
Automotive Aftermarket Distributors

How could it impact your business?

As it stands today, this UNECE Regulation, if it does not include safeguard clauses for the automotive aftermarket, could result in independent businesses being deprived, on the medium to long-term, of any independent access to the vehicle's data and resources: the OBD port could be closed, vehicle manufacturers' proprietary access certificates could be not compatible with independent diagnostic and test tools, and the remote, direct access to data could be prevented, giving the vehicle manufacturers a gatekeeper role and a monopoly on which data they share, at which cost, under which conditions.

It could also prevent independent automotive aftermarket workshops from performing legitimate repair, maintenance and replacement operations. The proprietary cybersecurity strategy of the vehicle manufacturers could make it impossible to use spare parts from independent sources, which could be rejected under the name of 'security', as their necessary coding might not be accepted in the larger cybersecure electronic architecture of the vehicles. Replacing some parts (especially the ones with the highest added value, i.e. electronics parts), which could be considered as "alien intruders", or performing software updates, in an independent manner, might no longer be possible.

What is FIGIEFA doing?

FIGIEFA participates in the UNECE meetings where the piece of legislation is drafted and will be adopted. Thanks to its consultative status, and together with fellow associations representing other segments of the automotive aftermarket, FIGIEFA has drafted, submitted and defended pertinent changes intending to preserve the interests of the sector while maintaining the highest protection in terms of cybersecurity. The discussions are still ongoing and we are facing fierce opposition from vehicle manufacturers.

In parallel, FIGIEFA has informed the European Commission of the threats that such a UN legislation would have on the EU regulatory framework on repair and maintenance rights and the need to establish safeguarding measures in the European Union to protect the right of independent businesses to conduct routine and legitimate work practices. Together with its members, FIGIEFA is also informing European national governments about the risks that the draft legislation has for independent businesses, and on the solutions contained in the amendments.

The outcome of the political discussions on this will have a decisive impact on our sector. We will keep defending your interests in the upcoming months to make sure that your companies don't get hampered from conducting legitimate business operations. We will need your support to convince political decision-makers of the importance of taking into consideration your needs. Stay tuned!

For more information, visit our website

Follow @FIGIEFA