



## WELCOME ADDRESS

from Chairman of the Council of the Association of Russian Automakers  
on the occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russian Automotive Industry

Dear friends and colleagues,

On July 1 (July 14), 1896, the first in Russia self-moving carriage created by two talented Russian engineers Yevgeny Yakovlev and Peter Frese was shown at the 16<sup>th</sup> All-Russia Industry-and-Art Fair in the city of Nizhny Novgorod.

That motor vehicle signaled the start of development of a new kind of industrial production in Russia, namely the automotive industry. During the following decade, more than 10 facilities for production of motor vehicles were built in Russia.

In 1915, the Government of Russia took a decision on construction of specialized automobile plants in the country, of which the most important one was AMO Plant launched in 1916 in Moscow by Ryabushinsky brothers.

A new stage in development of the Russian auto industry started in 1918 with creation of an R&D automobile laboratory, which was established by enthusiasts of automotive science Yevgeny Chudakov and Nikolai Briling. The theoretical foundation of the automotive science set up by Academician Yevgeny Chudakov is until now considered as a basis for designing motor vehicles.

The automotive industry was developing in line with the country's economic development, being an important component of industrialization of the Soviet Union's national economy.

Putting into operation of Gorky Automobile Plant in 1932, enlargement of production capacity at ZIS Moscow Automobile Plant, mass construction of production facilities in allied industries have allowed the country's leadership to declare worldwide in 1933: "We had no automotive industry. We do have it now".

During the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945), the automobile plants were moved to eastern areas over the Volga River and the Urals. There, in very hard conditions, they not only supplied the army and the home front with motor vehicles but were also mastering new designs.

After the end of the Great Patriotic War, new automobile plants were built in Belarus, Ukraine, Kirgizia, Georgia and Armenia. New production facilities for automotive components were also created; automobile engineering faculties were opened in institutes of higher education.

An impact in development of the automotive industry in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was given by construction of the giant plants – AVTOVAZ in Togliatti and KAMAZ in Naberezhnye Chelny. New development was enjoyed by allied industries. Scores of factories producing automotive components and materials have been built.

Extremely difficult for the auto industry in Russia were the ending years of the last century.

However, we have survived. Nowadays, the Russian automotive industry is within the Top-10 of the most developed national automobile industries.

We have now a strategy of the industry's development approved by the Government of the Russian Federation. We have achieved a notable growth of vehicle production and sales.

Today, about 278 thousand people are employed in the field of automobile production in Russia, and over 2 million people are working in allied industries. The consolidated contribution of the automotive industry and allied industries to the country's GDP accounted 5.8% in 2019.

As a result, the number of vehicles in use in the country has exceeded 54 million units. The fleet share of the vehicles meeting the high requirements for ecology and general safety is permanently growing. For example, more than 400 electric buses are operating on Moscow city routes. This is the best result among the big European cities.

We keep up our pace of work on creation of motor vehicles with a high automation rate, development of the legal base and forming infrastructure for safe driving.

We also make focus on issues of technical regulation and standardization, customs legislation, raising competitiveness of the industry's products, economic safety, information policies, labor market, and governmental support of exports.

Being aware of the necessity to overcome real difficulties the country is facing in the COVID-19 circumstances, we are optimistically looking for achieving positive results already in the near future.

On behalf of the Association of Russian Automakers, I am pleased to congratulate all employees of the automotive industry in Russia, all workers of the allied industries on the occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russian Auto Industry and wish them good health and further success.

Sergey A. Kogogin  
Chairman of the Council  
Association of Russian Automakers