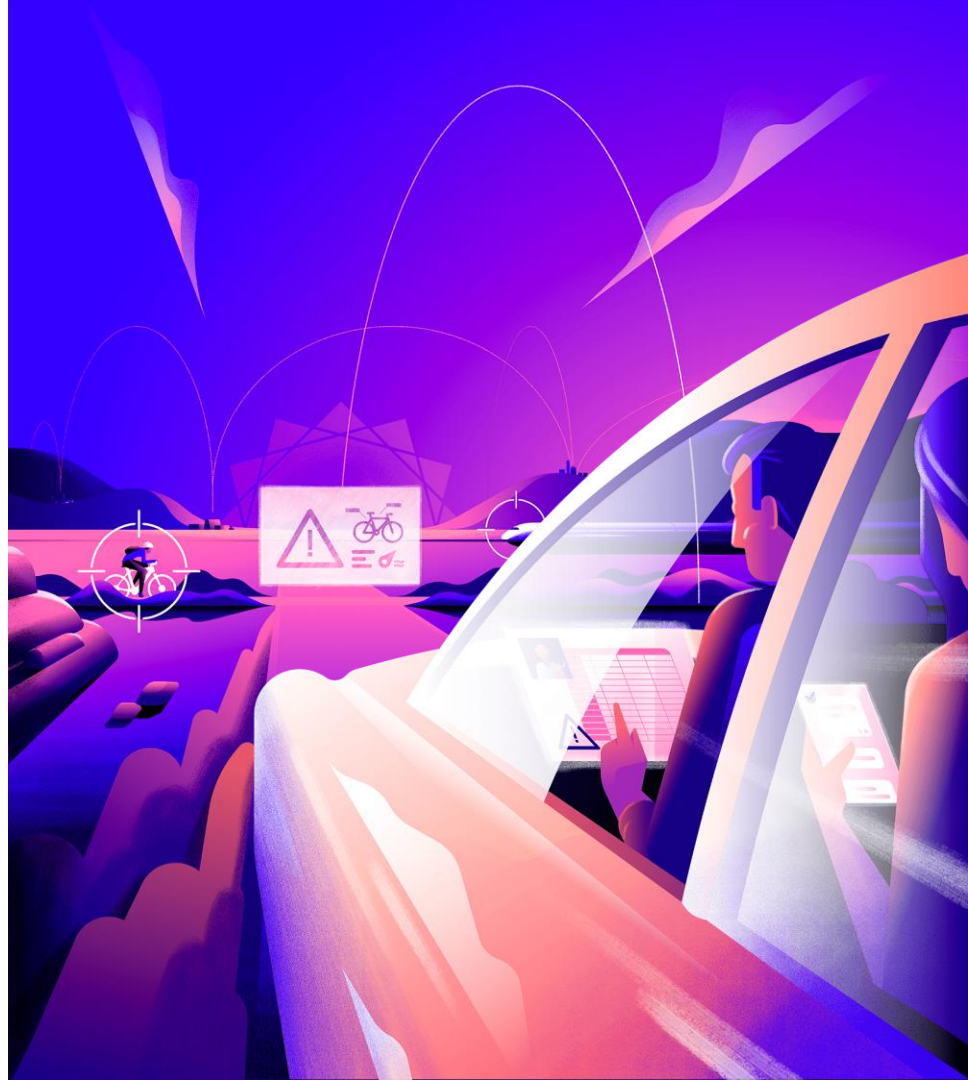


IER Committee Ceemet

Roundtable national developments

Brussels, 29th October 2024

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Economical situation Tech-industry

Most indicators are negative

- Turnover decreased by 9% in the first half of 2024 compared to the first half of 2023.
- Market share in European exports at the lowest point in the past 20 years.
- Utilization rate of production capacity remains below 80%.
- Insured activity duration decreased by 4.7%.
- Business confidence at its lowest level in 10 years (with the exception of 2020).
- Strong decline in employment (175,000 → 169,000).
- Job losses due to bankruptcies and restructuring: 3,700 in 12 months.
- Temporary unemployment at a high level again (6.6%).
- Still almost 7,000 vacancies.
- Labor shortages as a barrier to production are declining but remain high.

Economical situation Tech-industry

Summary

- In 2023 and 2024 things quickly went from a very favorable to a very unfavorable situation.
- As far as activity is concerned, all indicators are clearly orange/red.
- Many jobs have been lost since the beginning of the year, mainly due to bankruptcies and restructuring. However, some signals remain neutral or even favorable, including the number of vacancies and the number of companies looking for skilled workers.
- At best, a stabilization of activity is expected in the short term. More restructurings have been announced, which will further reduce employment.

Political situation

- General elections were held in June 2024.
- Results are quite different between Flanders and Wallonia within the same political family.
- Discussions are going on since July between nationalists (Fl), liberals (Wall), Christian democrats (Fl & Wall), and socialists (Fl) → “Arizona-parties” to try to make a coalition.
- The budgetary situation is problematic.
- A negation note has been prepared by the chairman of the biggest party (nationalist) who normally should be the future prime minister.
- His proposals contains an important number of socio-economical reforms, which many of them are beneficial for the economy and to the companies.

Social bargaining

- The current collective agreement comes to an end at the end of 2024.
- However, according to the process provided by law and the potential influence of the current political discussions to form a government, it is possible that the new bargaining round for new agreements 2025-2026, will only start very late in spring.
- Wages are automatically linked to the inflation rate (indexation) & Competition Law 1996 provides that the room for wage increase is limited to the expected wage increase in FR – NL – DE (“wage margin”), but indexation is guaranteed. It is very uncertain to know what will be the wage margin for 2025-2026.
- Trend : tension between general, collective rules <--> specific, individual solutions.
- The important job losses and loss of activity have pushed the unions to organize a manifestation to claim a better industrial policy of the different government. We are trying to work out together with the unions proposals that we can put forward to governments.

Embracing technology
Embracing ambition

Thank you

For your attention

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