The industry follows a progressive approach for the introduction of fully automated vehicles. Despite multiple announcements, technical challenges are still high to ensure the necessary levels of safety without a driver. Until now, only a few prototypes with a limited range have been tested around the world under the supervision of manufacturers. While the first automated vehicles are now coming to the market, their number and range is limited.

The Commission also follows a progressive regulatory approach for the approval of automated and fully automated vehicles in line with the EU strategy on automated mobility\(^1\). While testing of prototypes on open roads is subject to national law, the Commission is now developing harmonised implementing rules\(^2\) for the type approval of fully automated vehicles, the first in the world. The use of the EU small series scheme (limited to 1500 vehicle per model per year) will allow to quickly gain experience with the first commercialised fully automated vehicles and to develop legislation further for larger series by July 2024. Such future legislation would also have to take into account the rules of the future EU regulation on artificial intelligence, expected to be adopted by that date.

The Commission has extensively consulted stakeholders and Member States on this progressive approach. The industry confirmed that due to technical limitations, volumes are expected to remain low in the next 2-3 years. The approach is also well in line with the Commission strategy to deploy automated mobility on large scale by 2030. The implementing legislation is now in the final stages of adoption in view of the target date of application of 6 July 2022.

\(^1\) Communication from the Commission: On the road to automated mobility: An EU strategy for mobility of the future: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52018DC0283

\(^2\) An implementing act to Regulation (EU) 2019/2144 on vehicle general safety to regulate the automated driving system replacing the driver for the driving task: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12152-Automated-cars-technical-specifications_en and a delegated act to Regulation (EU) 2018/858 on the approval of motor vehicles to regulate all other type-approval aspects that need to be updated for driverless vehicles (e.g. no driver seat, no glazing for commercial fully automated vehicles, etc.): https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13291-Vehicle-safety-technical-requirements-for-unlimited-and-small-series-and-special-purpose-and-fully-automated-vehicles_en