

EU Transport and Infrastructure Priorities

The Latvian Presidency has stated its priorities for transport. It will start working on the revised proposal laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels; continue the discussions on all parts of the railway package and formalise the agreement reached on the weights and dimensions proposal. In order to highlight the importance of TEN-T, the Presidency will initiate ministerial discussions focusing on the development, implementation and financing of the TEN-T transport network infrastructure. In addition, the European Commission has published [nine studies](#) on the state of play and the development needs of the TEN-T core network corridors. The studies have identified infrastructure development needs which represent approximately €700 billion of financial investment until 2030. They highlight the importance of optimising the use of infrastructure along the corridors, notably through intelligent transport systems, efficient management and the promotion of future-oriented clean transport solutions. The results of these studies will be taken into account when deciding on the allocation of EU funds for the period 2014 – 2020. (Source: EFIP and European Commission)

http://www.inlandports.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=51&Itemid=63
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-3341_en.htm

Passenger car registrations forecast for 2015

The 'European Car Dealers' (ECD), a division of CECRA (the European Council for Motor Traders and Repairs), estimate that 13,137,600 passenger cars will be registered in Europe in 2015. This represents an increase of 1% in comparison to 2014, during which 13,009,252 cars were registered. This forecast is based on the outcome of a survey conducted by CECRA, which represents the interests of automotive dealers and repairers in Europe. (Source: CECRA)
http://www.cecra.eu/pressreleases/120115_Forecast.pdf

Passenger car registration December 2014

In December, EU passenger car registrations recorded growth for the sixteenth consecutive month (+4.7%), reaching 951,329 units sold. Looking at the largest markets, the demand increase was mainly led by the significant growth recorded in Spain (+21.4%), followed by the UK (+8.7%), Germany (+6.7%), and Italy (+2.4%), while France (-6.7%) performed less well than in the same month last year. From January to December, 12,550,771 new passenger cars were registered in the EU. Looking at the largest markets, Spain recorded the largest increase over the year (+18.1%) followed by the UK (+9.3%), Italy (+4.2%) and Germany (+2.9%), while France remained stable (+0.3%). (Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/passenger-car-registrations-5.7-over-twelve-months-4.7-in-december>

European Parliament splinters over Commission work programme

The European commission's 2015 work programme is expected to go ahead without any input from parliament, after groups were unable to agree on the wording of a joint resolution. Team Juncker was heavily criticised by MEPs when it unveiled its plans last December, due to proposals to withdraw legislation on clean air and waste. Each political group in the Parliament brought forward its own text in plenary, however, none of the resolutions were adopted as they did not win a sufficient majority. Nevertheless, most MEPs urged the commission not to drop draft legislation on air quality. A joint position on the work programme might have changed the commission's mind regarding its plans for clean air legislation, however, Juncker's team does not need parliament's approval in order to go ahead with its proposals. (Source: The Parliament Magazine)
<https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/articles/news/parliament-splinters-over-commission-work-programme>

Recommendations for future calls of Horizon 2020

The European Council for Automotive R&D (EUCAR) has put forward recommendations for the implementation of future calls of the Horizon 2020 programme:

- For industrial research and innovation themes, in particular in “Mobility for Growth”, formulate calls for proposals with more explicit descriptions of the scope and size of projects.
- In these calls, reflect the priorities of industry and the stakeholder community through the ongoing cooperation with representative associations and technology platforms.
- For such industrially relevant calls, re-introduce the single-stage evaluation procedure, reflecting the practice in the contractual PPPs and enabling proposal submission dates to be brought forward.
- Through the above measures, reduce the level of oversubscription, avoiding excessive sunk resources for unsuccessful proposals and concentrating the available expertise.
- Simplify and reinforce the work of the evaluators and help ensure the highest quality proposals are selected, enabled by the specific guidance of the calls and the clarity of the single-stage procedure.
- Avoid all possible delays in informing successful applicants of the results of evaluations, enabling projects to start as soon as possible, avoiding the wait until the end of the 5-month deadline from the final proposal submission date.

(Source: EUCAR)

<http://www.eucar.be/EUCAR%20recommendations%20Horizon%202020%20procedures.pdf>

Consultation report on investment protection in EU-US trade talks

This week, the European Commission published its [analysis](#) of the almost 150,000 replies to its online consultation on investment protection and investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The Commission asked the public for their views on a possible approach to protecting investments and settling investment-related disputes between private investors and governments. The Commission's report sets out a detailed analysis of all the replies, which can be divided into three categories:

- Replies indicating opposition to or concerns around TTIP in general
- Replies opposing or expressing general concerns about investment protection/ISDS in TTIP
- Replies which provide detailed comments on the EU's suggested approach in TTIP, representing broad and divergent views

In the first quarter of 2015, the Commission will organise a number of consultation meetings with EU governments, the European Parliament, and different stakeholders, including NGOs, business, trade unions, consumer and environment organisations, to discuss investment protection and ISDS in TTIP on the basis of this report. As a first step, the consultation results will be presented to the INTA Committee of the European Parliament on 22 January. Following these consultations during the first quarter, the Commission will develop specific proposals for the TTIP negotiations. (Source: European Commission) http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-3201_en.htm

Week ahead

European Parliament

Tuesday 20 January

TRAN Committee

- Weights and Dimensions Directive (recommendations for 2nd reading)
- Exchange of views with Director General DG Move, Mr Aguiar Machado
- Presentation by Latvian Minister for Transport, Mr Anrijs Matiss on Latvian Presidency priorities

Wednesday 21 January

ITRE Committee

- Study on 'TTIP Impacts on European Energy Markets and Manufacturing Industries', Presentation by Koen Rademakers, Triple Consulting

ENVI Committee

- Recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for TTIP
- Establishment and operation of a market stability reserve for the Union greenhouse gas emission trading scheme and amendment of Directive 2003/87/EC

Thursday 22 January

ITRE Committee

- Establishment and operation of a market stability reserve for the Union greenhouse gas emission trading scheme and amendment of Directive 2003/87/EC