

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 17 January

### EU new car market contracts 1.3% in 2013

Figures published by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers Association, show that in 2013 the EU market recorded a total of 11,850, 905 new cars, a contraction of 1.7% on 2012. EU new car registrations have been on the decline for six consecutive years. In terms of annual volumes, however, 2013 is the worst year since 1995 (15 EU countries at the time), and the worst ever since ACEA began the series in 2003 with the enlarged EU. Over twelve months the UK recorded a double-digit growth (+10.8%), while Spain posted a more moderate upturn (+3.3%), and Germany (-4.2%), France (-5.7%) and Italy (-7.1%) saw their demand for new cars decline. Figures for December showed more positive results with a 13.3% increase in new car registrations in the EU. This was the largest monthly year-on-year growth since December 2009 (+16.6%). However, in absolute figures, the results were the third lowest to date for a month of December with a total of 906,294 units. In December, most EU markets posted growth, as did all the major ones, from +1.4% in Italy, to +5.4% in Germany, +9.4% in France, +18.2% in Spain and +23.8% in the UK.

(Source: ACEA)

[http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news\\_detail/passenger\\_car\\_registrations\\_-\\_1.7\\_in\\_2013\\_13.3\\_in\\_december](http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/passenger_car_registrations_-_1.7_in_2013_13.3_in_december)



### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new light commercial vehicles proposal adopted by EP

On January 13 2014, the European Parliament plenary discussed the report on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new light commercial vehicles. The following day, the Parliament voted in favour of the Commission proposal and adopted the legislative resolution with 552 votes in favour, 110 against and 12 abstentions. Commenting on the vote Commissioner Hedegaard noted that two main issues were raised in the discussions: those arguing that there is a lack of ambition in the proposal and the test cycle. Ms Hedegaard stated that before the agreement reached in 2011, the Commission proposed 135g/km at that time, but two years later, the time was not mature to go for anything other than 147g/km. In preparing for the post-2020 regime, the Commission will also include finalising WLTP and she stated that the challenge with the new test cycle is to look into the post-2020 regime.

(Source: European Parliament)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>

### Industrial production up by 1.8% in euro area

Figures published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, show that in November 2013 compared with October 2013, seasonally adjusted industrial production grew by 1.8% in the euro area (EA17) and by 1.5% in the EU. Among the member states for which data are available, industrial production rose in sixteen, remained stable in three and fell in six. The highest increases were registered in Ireland (+11.7%), Sweden (+6.4%), Malta (+3.8%), Croatia (+3.0%), the Netherlands (+2.5%) and Germany (+2.4%), and the largest decreases in Lithuania (-3.5%), Denmark (-3.0%) and Greece (-2.2%).. In November 2013 compared with November 2012, industrial production increased by 3.0% in both the euro area and the EU.

(Source: Eurostat)

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_PUBLIC/4-14012014-AP/EN/4-14012014-AP-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/4-14012014-AP/EN/4-14012014-AP-EN.PDF)

# Education Commissioner calls for stronger partnerships between employers and education

In a speech at the launch of a report by business consultancy McKinsey on 'Education to Employment: Getting Europe's Youth into Work', Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou (Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth), called for stronger partnerships between employers and education to overcome the skills gap which is a major cause of high youth unemployment in Europe. "We need to target skills development where it is most needed. That is why EU initiatives such as the Sector Skills Alliances in VET [vocational education and training] and Knowledge Alliances in higher education are designed to involve employers in curriculum design. And this is why the European Alliance for Apprenticeships aims to improve standards of dual and work-based learning," she said. The Commissioner underlined the need for Member States to implement the new Youth Guarantee effectively and for young people to make the most of the opportunities provided by Erasmus+ to improve their skills through study and training abroad.

(Source: McKinsey)

[http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/social\\_sector/converting\\_education\\_to\\_employment\\_in\\_europe](http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/social_sector/converting_education_to_employment_in_europe)



## Week ahead

### European Commission

Wednesday 22 January

Commission to present Communication for a European Industrial Renaissance: The Commission will adopt the Communication "For a European industrial renaissance", which aims to put the real economy and industry at the heart of its growth strategy.

Wednesday 22 January

Commission to present Energy and Climate 2030 Legislative Package: The Commission is due to present a legislative pack-age with significant new proposals on energy and climate change. The package will include papers on 2030 targets, shale gas, energy prices and EU ETS reform.

### Council of Ministers

No relevant activity

### European Parliament (Committees, Brussels)

Monday 20 January

TRAN: Feedback on Trilogues (Deployment of Alternative Fuels)

INTA: Presentation on the priorities of the Greek Presidency in the area of International Trade Policy