

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 18 January

EU new car registrations down 16.3% in December

Figures released by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, show that new car registrations declined by 16.3% in the EU in December 2012, the steepest recorded fall in a month of December since 2008. During December most of the major markets recorded a double-digit downturn ranging from -14.6% in France to -16.4% in Germany, -22.5% in Italy and -23.0% in Spain. The UK was the only significant market to post growth (+3.7%).

Overall, a total of 799,407 new cars were registered in the EU. Over the whole year, demand for new cars reached the lowest level recorded since 1995, totaling 12,053,904 units an 8.2% contraction of the EU market. Results were diverse across EU markets, with the UK expanding (+5.3%) and the German market somewhat containing the decline (-2.9%), whilst Spain (-13.4%), France (-13.9%) and Italy (-19.9%) faced a more severe downturn. ACEA has also announced that Andreas Renschler has been elected as Chairman of its Commercial Vehicle Board of Directors for 2013. Mr Renschler, a member of the Board of Management of Daimler AG and Head of the Daimler Trucks Division, replaces Harrie Schippers, President of DAF, who chaired ACEA's Commercial Vehicle Board last year. The Commercial Vehicle Board elects a new Chairman annually.

(Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/passenger_car_registrations_-8.2_over_12_months_-16.3_in_december

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/press_release_andreas_renschler_to_lead_acea_commercial_vehicle_board_in_2013

European Commission declares 2013 the 'Year of Air'

The European Commission has declared 2013 as the 'Year of Air', with new proposals on improving air quality across Europe. The plan is to highlight the importance of clean air for all and to focus on actions to improve air quality across the EU. Already the

European Commission has formed a collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe. They will review the latest health science on major air pollutants such as particulate matter, ground-level ozone, and nitrogen dioxide. Their findings will be presented at an event this month entitled 'Understanding the health effects of air pollution: recent advances to inform EU policies'. Participants will present the latest findings on the health effects of air pollution and the latest evidence for adverse respiratory and cardiovascular health effects, and identify specific sizes, sources or constituents of particulate matter (such as traffic, black carbon, fine and ultrafine particles, and diesel exhaust) associated with adverse health effects. The event will also summarise how science has advanced our understanding of the issue, as well as spotlight the uncertainties, and identify key areas for further research. The European Commission is also asking EU citizens what they would do to improve air quality in Europe. In order to gather views, opinions and ideas, the European Commission will be holding a public consultation until 4 March 2013. The results of the consultation will feed into a comprehensive review of Europe's air policies due later in 2013. The Commission will shortly issue the results of in-depth analysis and extensive consultation with a new proposal on the future of EU air policy for 2013.

(Source: European Commission)

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&RCN=35438



European industrial production down 0.3%

Figures published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, show that in November 2012 compared with October 2012, seasonally adjusted industrial production fell by 0.3% in both the euro area and the wider EU, whilst in November 2012 compared with November 2011, industrial production dropped by 3.7% in the euro area and by 3.3% in the EU. Eurostat has also released estimates for trade in goods balance in November 2012, with the euro area obtaining a €13.7 billion surplus, compared with €+4.9 billion in November 2011, whilst the wider EU recorded €1.7 billion euro deficit, compared with €-9.3 billion in November 2011. (Source: Eurostat) http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-13-6_en.htm?locale=en

Committee of the Regions publishes survey on industrial policy

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) has invited local and regional stakeholders in all member states to express their views on the implementation process of industrial policy measures to contribute to "An Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era", one of seven Flagship Initiatives developed under the Europe 2020 Strategy. The initiative was adopted by the European Commission in 2010 with the objective of boosting growth by creating a stable industrial base, primarily through the strong involvement of SMEs. The deadline to participate in the survey is 1 March 2013, and the outcome will be discussed at a CoR conference to be held on 10 April 2013 in Brussels. (Source: CoR)

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/europe2020/Pages/europe-2020.aspx>



Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity

Council of Ministers

22 January

Economic and Financial Affairs Council

European Parliament - Committee Week (Brussels)

22 January

TRAN – Temporary derogation from Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community – Consideration of draft opinion

TRAN – Roadworthiness package – hearing

23 January

ITRE – Modalities for reaching the 2020 target to reduce CO2 emissions for new light commercial vehicles and new passenger cars – Consideration of draft opinion

24 January

ENVI/ITRE - Amendment of Directive 2003/87/EC clarifying pro-visions on the timing of auctions of greenhouse gas allowances. – Consideration of amendments and vote