

### SMMT strengthens UK auto dialogue with EU

SMMT held its reception in Brussels 'The UK automotive industry in Europe' this week. The reception brought together senior automotive industry executives, UK and EU government officials, MEPs and representatives of the European Commission. A keynote speech was delivered by Lord Hill, Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, in which he announced the re-launch of the European Commission's CARS 2020 initiative. Also speaking at the event were Glenis Willmott MEP, Syed Kamall MEP and Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive. The event presented a key opportunity to demonstrate the strength and importance of the UK automotive industry to European colleagues, and to emphasise how having a strong voice in Europe is critical to the continuing success of the UK automotive sector.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmmt.co.uk/2015/01/smmmt-strengthens-uk-auto-dialogue-eu-brussels/>

### ECB expected to inject up to €1 trillion into eurozone

The European Central Bank (ECB) has confirmed it will shortly announce 'further measures' to stimulate the ailing eurozone economy. Reports say the ECB will inject up to €1 trillion by buying government bonds worth up to €50bn (£39bn) per month until the end of 2016. Creating new money to buy government debt, or quantitative easing, should reduce the cost of borrowing. The ECB also said eurozone interest rates were being held at 0.05%. The eurozone is flagging and the ECB is seeking ways to stimulate spending.

(Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-30933515>

### EU to support studies on electric vehicle traffic development

The EU's TEN-T Programme will back a market study and a pilot on the deployment of electric vehicles and their charging infrastructure along the main highways in southern Sweden, Denmark and northern Germany. The €1 million project aims to contribute to removing barriers for long distance 'green' travel across borders. One of the main barriers to the widespread use of electric vehicles on European roads is lack of convenient service stations and their incompatibility with other kinds of vehicles. This project will carry out feasibility studies on consumer preferences and user acceptance of electric vehicles and the related charging infrastructure, as well as the supporting consumer services. It will also make a pilot deployment of fast charging stations along the highways in the named countries. The project was selected for EU funding with the assistance of external experts under the TEN-T Annual Call 2013, priority 'Decarbonisation (Oil substitution or environmental cost reduction)'. Its implementation will be monitored by [INEA](http://inea.ec.europa.eu/en/news_events/newsroom/), the European Commission's Innovation and Networks Executive Agency. The project is to be completed by 31 December 2015. (Source: European Commission)

[http://inea.ec.europa.eu/en/news\\_events/newsroom/eu-to-support-studies-on-electric-vehicle-traffic-development-in-northern-europe.htm](http://inea.ec.europa.eu/en/news_events/newsroom/eu-to-support-studies-on-electric-vehicle-traffic-development-in-northern-europe.htm)



## Presentation of the Latvian Presidency's environment and industry priorities

This week, the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee discussed the Latvian Presidency's priorities for the environment with the Minister for the Environment and Regional Development, Kaspars Gerhards. The Latvian Presidency intends to focus on three key areas:

- climate change policy;
- improving Europe's air quality; and
- ensuring a more effective use of natural resources.

The Presidency also wants to work towards improving the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). The Industry, Research and Energy Committee (ITRE) discussed the Presidency's priorities for industry, energy and competitiveness with Dana Reizniece-Ozola, Latvian Minister for Economics. The main energy priority for the Presidency will be the development of the Energy Union concept. On industry and competitiveness, industrial digitalisation and competitiveness will be priorities for the Presidency. These issues will be the themes of several meetings organised during the next six months. Improving the access to financing for SMEs is also a key priority. (Source: CBI + DODS)

---

## MEPs fail to agree on carbon market reform start date

On Thursday, 22 January, a European Parliament committee rejected a previous vote to begin carbon market reforms in 2021, clearing the way for another Parliament body next month to back action to prop up the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). To try to bolster carbon prices and spur industry to switch to greener energy, the European Commission proposed a plan to remove hundreds of millions of surplus carbon allowances (EUAs) from the market starting in 2021. The UK and Germany, which back zero-carbon generation from nuclear and renewable power, have led calls to begin action by 2017. Utilities such as E.ON, seeking support for investment, also want prompt action. Poland, dependent on carbon-heavy coal and energy-intensive industry says the Commission proposal date of 2021 is acceptable. Those divisions were echoed in the European Parliament. (Source: Euractiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/energy/meps-fail-agree-carbon-market-reform-start-date-311489>

## The Cost of Non-Europe in Transport

The European Parliament has published a briefing on the cost of Non-Europe in transport. The briefing states that transport is a vital component of the EU economy with untapped potential. The sector suffers, however, from remaining barriers, gaps and market inefficiencies that create substantial costs and that could be addressed through further action at EU level. The gains that could be achieved from addressing the identified issues in the four modes of transport – rail, road, air and maritime – are estimated to amount to at least €8.6bn annually. While the four sectors show similarities in terms of market fragmentation and lack of competitiveness, each sector requires its own approach to reform. This document summarises the main elements that build up the cost of Non-Europe in the transport sector. (Source: European Parliament) [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2015/545723/EPRS\\_BRI%282015%29545723\\_REV1\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2015/545723/EPRS_BRI%282015%29545723_REV1_EN.pdf)

---

## Week ahead

### European Council

Tuesday 27 January

Economic and Financial Affairs Council

### European Parliament

Monday 26 January

ITRE Committee

- Creation of a European Energy Union

ECON Committee

- Exchange of views with J.Katainen, Commissioner for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness

Tuesday 27 January

ECON Committee

- Review of the economic governance framework
- Annual Report on EU Competition Policy

JURI/INTA Committees

- Joint public hearing on TTIP: Regulatory Aspects and Investor-State Dispute Settlement/Arbitration