

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 27 January

German Chancellor Angela Merkel reveals long-term vision for Europe

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has revealed her long-term vision for Europe, stating that the debt crisis is forcing eurozone countries towards a federalist model. In an interview with six major European newspapers, Chancellor Merkel stated: "My vision is political union, because Europe has to follow its own path. We need to get closer step by step, in all policy areas". The German Chancellor's European vision was made public ahead of a summit on Monday 30 January, where EU leaders are expected to finalise a new treaty aimed at tightening fiscal discipline and deepening economic integration in the eurozone. Merkel described a new architecture for Europe where EU institutions have the last word over member states. This is in stark contrast to the vision espoused by UK Prime Minister David Cameron, who has vetoed attempts to transfer more power to Brussels. (Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/future-eu/merkel-vision-political-union-news-510395>

David Cameron addresses World Economic Forum on trade

UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, has addressed the World Economic Forum at its annual meeting in Davos. In his speech, Prime Minister Cameron stated that the drive to finish the Doha round of world trade talks were a failure, and insisted the European Union should instead negotiate free trade deals with the United States and Africa. Cameron said that Instead of trying to get every country to agree, the 27-nation EU should push forward with bilateral deals. He suggested a "coalition of the willing" - countries that wanted to do an ambitious trade deal could forge ahead alone. In addition, Cameron urged the EU to wrap up talks on free trade agreements with India, Canada and Singapore by the end of this year, stating

that the agreements could add up to €90 billion to EU GDP. (Source: Europa)

<http://www.euractiv.com/uk-europe/merkel-spurs-new-wto-strategy-news-510390>



Euro VI emission rules expanded beyond EU

New EU limits on air pollutants from lorries and buses should apply to 31 new countries by 2014 the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has agreed. The Euro VI standards will apply in the EU from January 2013. A UNECE working party on pollution and energy decided to align the standards in all 58 signatory countries of the organisation's 1958 agreement on vehicle type approvals. This covers EU member states plus countries such as Turkey, Russia and Ukraine. The proposal must still be formally approved by the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations in June. (Source: ENDS)

<http://www.endseurope.com/28008/euro-vi-emission-rules-expanded-beyond-eu?referrer=bulletin&DCMP=EMC-ENDS-EUROPE-DAILY>

EU commercial vehicle registrations up 9.9% in 2011

Figures published by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, show that in December 2011, new commercial vehicle registrations in the EU were up 7.5% to 166,739 units. Registrations grew in France 2.5%, the UK 13.4%, and Germany 16.3%,

while results were negative in Italy 0.8% and Spain 14.2%. The figures for 2011 show that a total of 1,935,392 new vehicles were registered, an increase of 9.9% on 2010 but still about one-fifth below pre-crisis levels when annual volumes averaged 2.5 million units. In 2011, France remained the largest market, with 482,823 new vehicles and an expansion of 5.6%. Germany registered 334,822 units, a growth of 18.7%, followed by the UK up 17.6% with 306,488 new vehicles. The Italian market contracted 3.4% and the Spanish markets 6.6%. (Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/commercial_vehicles_registrations_up_7.5_in_december



Week ahead

Council of Ministers

Monday 30 January

European Council – Tackling the debt crisis, enhancing economic growth, youth employment and lifelong learning, the Single Market and SMEs

Wednesday 1 February

Competitiveness (informal) – Horizon 2020, Digital Single Market

European Parliament

(Meeting of Committees - Brussels)

ENVI - A Roadmap for moving to a Competitive Low Carbon Economy in 2050 (30 January)

ENVI – Taxation of Energy Products and Electricity (30 January)