

## ACEA – CV registrations: +12.4% in 2015

Figures released by the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) show that in December 2015, EU demand for new commercial vehicles (CV) registered a strong increase (+14.8%), totalling 191,826 units over the month and marking one year of consecutive growth. Growth was significantly sustained across all commercial vehicle segments. Italy (+23.2%), Spain (+23.0%), the UK (+20.3%) ended the year extremely strong by posting double digit percentage gains in December, followed by France (+9.4%) and Germany (+8.7%). In 2015, the EU market showed a consistent uplift (+12.4%) and rose for the third year in a row, exceeding two million commercial vehicles registered (2,079,322). During the year, Spain (+36.4%) showed the most significant increase, followed by the UK (+16.7%), Italy (+13.2%), Germany (+4.3%) and France (+3.1%) – all performing better than 2014.

(Source: [ACEA](#))

## Commission tightens rules for safer and cleaner cars

The European Commission has tabled legislative proposals for a major overhaul of the EU type approval framework. The proposal aims at making vehicle testing more independent and increase surveillance of cars already in circulation. The proposal will help achieve three objectives:

- a reinforced and more independent vehicle testing;
- an effective market surveillance of cars already in circulation; and
- greater European oversight to reinforce the type approval system.

The proposal maintains the ban on defeat devices and complements the Real Driving Emissions (RDE) package. The draft Regulation will now be sent to the European Parliament and Council for adoption. Once adopted, it will be directly applicable. It will repeal and

replace Directive 2007/46/EC (the 'Framework Directive'). For more information, click [here](#).  
(Source: [European Commission](#))

## Commission launches GEAR 2030

To ensure a co-ordinated approach and to address the challenges faced by the European automotive industry, the Commission has launched a new High Level Group for the automotive industry: GEAR 2030. Competitiveness of the EU automotive industry is very important for the future growth of the EU economy. To remain competitive, the European automotive industry will quickly have to adapt to challenges from globalisation, changing mobility patterns, digitalisation and consumer expectations. Europe is no longer an absolute leader in terms of regulatory standards and the market access benefits stemming from the free trade agreements and multilateral frameworks are becoming increasingly challenged.

The GEAR 2030 High Level Group will focus on three areas of work:

- the adaptation of the value chain to new global challenges
- the automated and connected vehicles
- trade, international harmonisation and global competitiveness.

(Source: [European Commission](#))



## Commission gives a push to electric mobility and smart mobility services

EU Commissioner for Transport Violeta Bulc opened the [2016 Transport for Smart Cities conference](#), which gathered 200 leading players part of a European Innovation Partnership (EIP) whose objective is to improve urban life through sustainable integrated solutions. Commissioner Bulc attended the launch of two new initiatives bringing together cities and industry to promote the roll-out of [smart electric mobility](#) and of [smart city mobility services](#) at a large scale. Areas of application include the intelligent management of fleets of electric cars and real-time travel information. Commissioner Bulc said: "It is not 'us' and 'them' anymore – we need to work together and drive this challenge to a good destination. These initiatives will lead to smart mobility solutions to the market at scale. They will support innovation to create new jobs and fully integrate transport in the digital single market. If the fight against climate change is to be won in cities, I am convinced that Smart Cities are part of the answer".

(Source: [European Commission](#))

---

## PM to discuss 'emergency brake' on benefits

David Cameron is in Brussels for talks on allowing Britain to curb in-work benefits for migrants - with the permission of other EU nations. The so-called "emergency brake" plan is aimed at breaking the deadlock in Mr Cameron's EU renegotiations. The term is being applied to a plan to allow member states to restrict in-work benefits for two years initially, with the possibility of a further two-year extension, if it can be proved that their welfare systems are under intolerable strain due to immigration. The European Commission would perform tests on whether a brake on benefit payments was acceptable, but final approval would rest with a majority decision of the union's 28 states.

(Source: [BBC](#))

## ACEA celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

On 21 January 2016, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) hosted a reception in Brussels on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. After Secretary General Erik Jonnaert had welcomed all guests, ACEA's newly-elected President Dieter Zetsche took the stage. In his speech, Dr Zetsche set out the four themes that will top ACEA's agenda in years to come. "We want to make mobility cleaner, smarter, safer and even more customer-focused," Zetsche asserted. Finally, the European Commissioner for Transport, Violeta Bulc, shared her views on innovation in Europe's automobile industry – stressing the role of digitalisation in addressing tomorrow's mobility challenges.

(Source: [ACEA](#))

---

## Week ahead

### European Commission

Friday 5 February

- 'Destination Europe' Conference – this will showcase the research and innovation culture in Europe

### European Parliament – Plenary Session

Monday 1 February

- Debate: Recommendations to the Commission on the negotiations for the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA)
- Debate: Commercial relationship between EU and China and Market Economy Status

Tuesday 2 February

- Commission Statement – Commission decision adopted on the Corporate Tax Package

Wednesday 3 February

- Key debate and vote: Preparation of the European Council meeting of 18 and 19 February

Thursday 4 February

- Debate: the role of local and regional authorities in the European Structural and Investment Fund