

### EU CV registration figures published - ACEA

In December 2014, the EU market for new commercial vehicles decreased slightly in the month with new units totalling 166,742. Only the light commercial vehicle segment saw an increase, while truck, bus and coach sectors recorded a significant drop in sales. Spain (+33.8%) and France (+1.5%) contributed positively, while the UK (-9.2%), Germany (-5.2%) and Italy (-2.8%) performed less well than in the same month last year. Substantial declines posted by the new EU member states (-9.0%) partially explain last month's negative outcome. With regard to 2014 end-of-year figures, 1,849,077 new commercial vehicles were registered across the EU, a 7.6% improvement on 2013 figures. Looking at the largest markets, France remained stable (-0.4%), while Germany expanded (+4.8%). The UK (+10.8%), Italy (+13.9%) and Spain (+31.6%) posted double-digit growth. (Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/commercial-vehicle-registrations-7.6overtwelvemonths2.5indecember>

### Greece elects Alexis Tsipras as new Prime Minister

Alexis Tsipras, leader of the radical-left party Syriza, has formed a new coalition government in Greece with the centre-right Independent Greeks. Sworn in as Prime Minister on a mandate of anti-austerity on Monday, Mr Tsipras intends to renegotiate the vast levels of national debt which the country holds with various public and private organisations in response to the budget cuts which his country has faced during the recession. Fears of a crisis on the financial markets in response to the election result were not fully materialised, with the pre-emptive announcement of quantitative easing by the European Central Bank a few days before. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has informed the new Greek prime minister of the need for "ensuring fiscal responsibility". (Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-30981950>

### German automotive industry leaders push for TTIP agreement

The heads of German automotive companies including BMW, Daimler and Audi lobbied politicians on Wednesday to continue the push for the TTIP free-trade agreement between the United States and the European Union. BMW AG Chief Executive Norbert Reithofer said around 40% of all cars produced are sold in Europe and the United States. Removing tariffs would yield savings of around €1 billion (£724 million) for the German automotive industry alone, he said. Daimler Chief Executive Dieter Zetsche added that automotive manufacturers waste resources duplicating efforts for development, certification and crash testing to ensure vehicles meet different regulatory standards in the EU and the United States. (Source: Reuters)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/01/28/uk-autos-ttip-bosses-idUKKBN0L11NV20150128>

### Trade Priorities of the Latvian Presidency

The Latvian Parliamentary State Secretary for EU affairs met with the European Parliament's International Trade Committee (INTA) to discuss the Latvian Presidency's priorities for international trade. The Council has three main priorities for trade in the EU – the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), Japan and Vietnam. The debate in INTA was dominated by the issues surrounding the TTIP negotiations, especially the role of ISDS in these agreements. Other issues such as ISDS in CETA, conflict minerals, and transparency were also discussed. (Source: CBI)



## Plans to ban diesel vehicles from Paris city centre

The mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, has announced intentions to ban diesel vehicles from the French capital amid rising concerns over air pollution. The ban would initially affect heavy commercial vehicles and coaches, coming into force from July in all areas inside the Périphérique, the circular ring-road that surrounds Paris, Ms Hidalgo told the Le Monde newspaper on Wednesday. She said she would present the measures in 12 days to the municipal council, which is expected to adopt them. She added that all vehicles causing high pollution would be banned from Paris in 2016, but did not specify what the emission threshold would be. Last March, Parisian authorities made public transport free for three days to reduce severe smog caused by unusually warm weather. It has been suggested that pollution blown over from northern Paris where heavy industry takes place has also been a substantive contributing factor to the city's recent smog levels. (Source: The Telegraph online)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/11374908/Paris-mayor-calls-for-ban-on-polluting-coaches-and-trucks.html>

---

## EU paper calls for binding CCS targets by 2030

European member states should be given binding targets for installing technology to capture and store carbon emissions, according to a new report for the European Commission. The UN's climate science panel says such technology could have to account for over a fifth of the world's carbon cuts by 2050 and [the new paper](#), produced by consultants for the EC, says there is a "genuine and urgent" need for it in Europe. The paper calls for CCS roadmaps to be developed by EU countries and for the commission to prepare a list of potential CCS storage sites.

(Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/energy/eu-paper-calls-binding-ccs-targets-2030-311577>

## UKIP MEP defects to Conservatives

Former UKIP MEP Amjad Bashir has announced his defection to the Conservative Party. The MEP for Yorkshire and the Humber had been the communities' spokesman for UKIP and was also a key part of party's campaign strategy as one of the few leading ethnic minorities. (Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-30967633>

---

## Week ahead

### European Commission

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February

- The Commission publishes Winter European Economic Forecast

### European Parliament

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February

- IMCO - Recommendations to the European Commission on negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

