

Alternative Fuel Vehicle registrations: +20.0%

The European Automobile Manufacturers' Association has (ACEA) published Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) registration figures. In the fourth quarter of 2015, total alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) registrations in the EU continued the positive momentum (+21.1%), totalling 164,718 units. Of these, electric vehicle (EV) registrations showed a substantial increase (+160.5%), more than doubling. EV registrations rose from 22,531 units in Q4 2014 to 58,689 units in Q4 2015. Demand for new hybrid vehicles (HEV) also grew significantly (+28.8%), reaching 60,911 units. On the other hand, new registrations of cars powered by propane or natural gas showed a double-digit dip (-31.8%) similarly to the previous quarter, totalling 45,118 – more than 20,000 units less than in Q4 2014. Among the EU's major markets, the Netherlands saw the largest increase of AFVs registered over the last quarter (+258.1%), followed by France (+43.7%), Germany (+27.8%) and the UK (+17.4%). Growth in these countries was driven by electric and hybrid electric car markets, especially in the Netherlands where the largest number of new electric cars was totalled. Italy performed less well compared to Q4 2014 (-23.6%), mainly due to the decline observed in the gas-fuelled car registrations, which represent more than 80% of total AFVs. In 2015, more than half a million AFVs were registered in the EU, up 20% compared to 2014. This represents 4.2% of total passenger car registrations. The uplift was fully sustained by the electric (+108.8%) and hybrid electric (+23.1%) markets, while the other alternative fuels declined (-8.4%).

(Source: [ACEA](http://acea.eu))



Donald Tusk to hold EU talks

EU president Donald Tusk said he had cleared his schedule to hold urgent meetings with leaders including Angela Merkel and Francois Hollande to push for a deal to keep Britain in the EU at a summit next week. The former Polish premier set out his proposals for a deal with British Prime Minister David Cameron last week on EU reforms, but there is opposition to several aspects of the deal in a number of EU countries. Eastern European states like the Visegrad Group -- Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia -- have raised questions about a plan to allow Britain to limit welfare benefits for new EU migrants working in Britain for up to four years. They say it could discriminate against the hundreds of thousands of their nationals working in Britain. Meanwhile there are fears Germany or other richer northern European states could try to take similar benefit measures, despite careful wording in Donald Tusk's proposal meaning the perk could effectively only apply to Britain, and that would create even wider opposition. France and other countries have also raised objections against a plan to give protections to Britain and other countries that do not use the euro, saying that the "euro-outs" cannot be given any veto over eurozone policies. Donald Tusk said he would meet German Chancellor Merkel, French President Hollande, Greek PM Alexis Tsipras, Belgian PM Charles Michel, as well as the President of Romania and the Czech PM, who currently heads the "Visegrad Group" of eastern European states.

(Source: [EU Business](http://eu-business.com))

Key 'Brexit' decisions must wait until EU summit

Talks on a deal to keep Britain in the EU will come to an end at a leaders' summit next week after negotiators failed to reach a breakthrough on the key issues on Thursday. The main points include Britain's demands for protection for countries that do not use the euro currency and the length of time it can limit welfare benefits for EU migrant workers. In a sign that

one of the most controversial issues is Britain's demands for safeguards for so-called "euro outs", Donald Tusk met Eurogroup chief Jeroen Dijsselbloem, European Central Bank official Benoit Coeure and European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker to discuss the "Brexit" talks.
(Source: [Euractiv](#))

Commission consultation into MES of China

The European Union launched a public consultation into whether to relax trade defences against China, as pressure mounts from the steel sector, which is fiercely opposed to a move that would make it harder to impose anti-dumping duties. The online consultation with industry, member states and trading partners is due to run for 10 weeks, and sets the stage for the executive to make policy recommendations in July. 30 European industries represented by AEGIS Europe called on European unions, businesses and NGOs to respond urgently to the European Commission's new public consultation.
(Source: [Euractiv](#))

ECR MEP to lead on revision of type approval

European Conservatives and Reformists Group MEP Daniel Dalton will be overseeing a revision of laws governing how cars are approved. Mr Dalton, who represents the West Midlands region of the UK, has been appointed as the 'rapporteur' on the type approval proposals, which set out the technical and safety requirements a car must meet before it can be sold in the EU. The commission proposals published at the end of January included measures to strengthen the independence and peer review of testing centres for new cars, a forum for exchange of best practice between national type approval and market surveillance authorities and new powers to the commission to conduct spot-checks of cars on the road, to remove substandard vehicles from the market and withdraw permission for testing centres. The proposals must now be agreed by both the European Parliament and the EU's 28 governments before they become law. (Source: [ECR Group](#))

Week ahead

European Council

Thursday 18 – Friday 19 February

- UK: The Council agreed to find mutually satisfactory solutions in four areas:
 - Competitiveness
 - Economic governance
 - Sovereignty
 - Social benefits and free movement
- Migration
 - The Council will look at the implementation of the decision already taken and prepare the ground for future decisions to be taken at its next meeting in March

Council of the EU

Monday 15 – Tuesday 16 February

- Foreign Affairs Council
- General Affairs Council

European Commission

Monday 15 February

- Conference of energy-intensive industries – the conference will map the key challenges and explore issues including innovation, investments, energy, circular economy and trade.

European Parliament

Monday 15 February

- INTA – EU-Ukraine and Russia trade relations; a new forward looking and innovative future strategy on trade and investment; exchange of views with the Commission on the TTIP follow-up report

Tuesday 16 February

- TRAN – Hearing on Road Transport Safety

Wednesday 17 February

- JURI – New rules for contracts in the digital environment
- EMPL – The Single Market Strategy

Thursday 18 February

- ENVI – Public hearing on ETS Phase IV reform proposal