

## Electric vehicle registrations in the EU – 2014

ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers Association, has published figures detailing electric vehicle registrations in 2014.

**In Q4 2014**, total electrically chargeable vehicle (ECV) registrations in the EU decreased slightly (-7.7%), totalling 24,552. Of these, pure battery electric vehicles (BEVs) represented about half of the total: 12,755 in Q4 2014, up from 8,418 in Q4 2013 (+51.5%). The remaining 11,797 was made up of Extended-Range Electric Vehicles (EREVs) and Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs), down (-35.2%) compared to Q4 2013.

**In 2014**, 75,331 new ECVs were registered in the EU, a 36.6% rise. Looking at the EU's major markets: the UK saw the largest increase over the year (+300.8%), followed by Germany (+70.2%) and France (+29.8%). Looking at the EFTA countries, Norway ended the year in first place with 19,767 registrations, more than doubling the registrations recorded in 2013 (+140.8%).

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/electric-vehicle-registrations-2014>

## Brussels and Washington seen seizing new regulatory powers through TTIP

The European Commission has published negotiating documents following the close of the eighth round of TTIP negotiations, held in Brussels last week. The round, which focused on regulatory aspects, included [detailed provisions](#) for stepping up cooperation within TTIP by setting up a transatlantic regulatory cooperation body (RCB). The proposed RCB will aim to discuss regulatory proposals relevant to the agreement, covering issues such as automobile standards, textiles and professional qualifications, at an early stage, in order to ensure a coherent approach to rule-making in the US and EU. It will have

no power to issue policy, and will only feed into the existing rule-making processes, but is likely to be influential within the relevant regulatory processes. Details on how the RCB would operate have not yet been disclosed, however, it would have different ad hoc configurations depending on regulatory sector, and draw personnel from existing European and member state regulators.

(Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/trade-society/brussels-washington-boost-regulatory-powers-through-ttip-312005>

## EU to exert maximum pressure in seeking emissions cuts

Mindful of the failure of its 2009 climate summit in Copenhagen, the United Nations is preparing ahead of time for a UN conference that from late November will try to forge a new global climate deal. It will be hosted by France, giving the EU particular reason to want a successful outcome. A week of talks that began in Geneva on Sunday will seek to produce a draft negotiating text to be distributed to national capitals in May, giving governments some six months to get ready for a final deal. EU High Representative Federica Mogherini has been pressing for increased climate diplomacy, employing the EU's army of diplomats and putting climate change on the agenda of all major ministerial meetings, not just those of energy and environment ministers. The EU has reached an outline agreement on a 2030 goal to reduce its emissions by 40% compared with 1990 levels. It needs to back that up with legislation and it expects to set its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) for the UN process in March.

(Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/energy/eu-exert-maximum-pressure-seeking-emissions-cuts-311953>

## British business leader urges early EU referendum

Prime Minister David Cameron has promised a referendum on whether Britain should leave the European Union by the end of 2017 if his Conservatives win on May 7. Ed Miliband's main opposition Labour party is committed to staying in the EU and does not plan to hold a referendum if it takes office. Now the director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, an umbrella organisation representing 52 local business associations around the country, has called for a referendum by May 2016 whatever happens to clarify the situation. "We need to bring the referendum date forward because two and a half years of uncertainty isn't good for growth and investment," stated John Longworth Director-General of the BCC. Cameron has previously indicated he could hold a referendum earlier than 2017 if his plans to renegotiate Britain's relationship with Europe beforehand went according to plan. This week's Sunday Times cited officials saying that Downing Street was preparing for a possible 2016 referendum. (Source: EUBusiness)

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/britain-politics.zso>

---

## Business EU Barometer

The Business EU Barometer from the British Chambers of Commerce gauges business sentiment on the UK's relationship with the EU. This quarter, respondents were again asked to give their view on the impact of different scenarios for Britain's future relationship with the EU. The key points to emerge were:

- Most businesses think withdrawal from the EU would be bad for Britain: 59% responded that full withdrawal from the European Union would impact negatively on their business.
- Business wants more decisions made in the UK: the scenario viewed most positively was for the UK to remain in the EU, but with specific powers transferred back from Brussels to Westminster. 57% of respondents believe this would deliver a positive impact for their business.
- 41% believe that remaining in the EU with no change to the current relationship would be a negative for their business.

(Source: BCC)

[http://www.britishchambers.org.uk/assets/downloads/policy\\_reports\\_2015/Q4%202014%20Business%20EU%20Barometer.pdf](http://www.britishchambers.org.uk/assets/downloads/policy_reports_2015/Q4%202014%20Business%20EU%20Barometer.pdf)

## Week ahead

### Eurogroup

Monday 16 February

- Amongst other issues, the Eurogroup will discuss the ongoing situation in Greece

### Economic and Financial Affairs Council

Tuesday 17 February

- Council will, amongst other issues, look into the progress made on the investment plans for Europe and discuss a proposal to establish a European fund for strategic investments and adopt conclusions on its priorities for the EU budget for 2016.

### European Commission

Wednesday 18 February

- The Commission will launch a Green Paper consultation on the Capital Markets Union. Based on the feedback it receives, the Commission will unveil an Action Plan on the CMU during third quarter of 2015.

