

## 2015 report on the activities of the EU published

The European Commission has published the 2015 edition of the General Report of the activities of the European Union. The General Report covers the major events and initiatives of the year. This year, these include, amongst others, the EU's efforts to tackle the refugee crisis, the agreement on support for Greece, the EU's response following the Paris terrorist attacks and the launch of the Investment Plan for Europe, as well as other major initiatives such as the Digital Single Market, Energy Union and Capital Markets Union. The Report is available online [here](#). (Source: [European Commission](#))

## HGV summit held in Brussels

The world's leading manufacturers of heavy-duty commercial trucks and engines called for further progress in regulatory harmonisation and closer cooperation among European, North American, and Japanese regulators in order to improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel consumption associated with on-road freight transport. Meeting in Brussels, the chief executives of more than 10 global truck and engine manufacturers discussed key issues facing their industry, including fuel efficiency improvements, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, safety, diesel fuel specifications, and issues related to heavy-duty engine and vehicle regulation and certification. Moreover, the industry leaders also explored the potential of intelligent transport systems (ITS) to further reduce emissions and improve road transport. Points agreed at this thirteenth gathering of industry leaders included:

- Proposal for a long-term action on the introduction of globally harmonised fuel efficiency measurement metrics and test procedures for heavy-duty vehicles;
- The need for further discussions on safety measures and ITS.

The leaders of the assembled companies a) emphasised the need for concerted global action for GHG emissions reductions; b) referred to the progress

made in UN discussions on the development of global diesel fuel specifications, and c) confirmed the need for further discussions on safety measures and ITS. Agreeing to advise their regional secretariats to continue the activities of the joint experts' meetings, they also affirmed that trans-national/trans-regional cooperative efforts between industry and governments toward global harmonisation can serve to promote improvements for customers and the global environment. (Source: [ACEA](#))

## Latest Eurostat GDP figures

Seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 0.3% in the euro area (EA19) and by 0.4% in the EU28 during the fourth quarter of 2015, compared with the previous quarter, according to an estimate published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In the third quarter of 2015, GDP also grew by 0.3% and 0.4% respectively. Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 1.6% in the euro area and by 1.8% in the EU28 in the fourth quarter of 2015, after +1.6% and +1.9% respectively in the previous quarter. During the fourth quarter of 2015, GDP in the United States increased by 0.3% compared with the previous quarter (after +0.5% in the third quarter of 2015). Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, GDP grew by 1.9% (after +2.1% in the previous quarter). Over the whole year 2015, GDP rose by 1.6% in the euro area and by 1.9% in the EU28, compared with 0.9% and 1.4% respectively in 2014. (Source: [Eurostat](#))

## Week ahead

### Council of the EU

Tuesday 15 March 2016

General Affairs Council – Growth and jobs

### European Parliament

Monday 14 March

- IMCO – Exchange of views with Commissioner
- INTA – Exchange of views on TTIP

Tuesday 15 March

AFCO

- The renegotiation of the UK constitutional relationship with the EU