

New EU rules for safer and more eco-friendly lorries

This week, the European Parliament gave its final approval to new EU rules for safer and more eco-friendly lorries ([Directive 2013/0195](#)), put forward by the Commission. These rules will allow manufacturers to develop more aerodynamic lorries which should reduce fuel consumption by 7 – 10%, cut emissions of greenhouse gases, and also enhance road safety. The new rules should bring a number of benefits including better road safety, better environmental performance, and more innovation and industrial opportunities for vehicle manufacturers. The final step is the adoption by the Council of the EU in the coming weeks. In parallel, the so-called EU vehicle type approval legislation needs to be updated, before new vehicles can be put on the market. Aerodynamic flaps could be expected to be put on the market from 2018 and safer and environmental cabins from 2020. All other measured (propulsion, controls and intermodal) could be implemented from 2018.

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-4586_en.htm

ACEA – position on weights and dimensions

The European Automobile Manufacturers' Association has (ACEA) reconfirmed its commitment to cleaner and safer trucks following the approval by the European Parliament on the Directive on the weights and dimensions of trucks. The industry has long advocated revising weights and dimensions rules to further increase the efficiency of the road freight sector.

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/news/article/acea-position-on-weights-and-dimensions>

Environment Council discusses Energy Union

Last week, the Environment Council met in Brussels to discuss key issues such as the Energy Union and the COP21 climate conference in Paris in December 2015. Ministers had a first exchange of views on the climate policy aspects of the [Commission communication on the Energy Union](#). The Council welcomed the proposal and underlined the importance of striking the right balance between its different goals. Ministers highlighted that the agreed 2030 climate and energy policy framework should be the basis for developing the decarbonisation dimension of the Energy Union and underlined the importance of maintaining the momentum at this critical stage in the international climate negotiations. Ministers agreed on the key role of the Emissions Trading System (ETS) for reaching the EU's 2030 emissions reduction target. The Council also called for new initiatives for measures in the non-ETS sectors such as transport and buildings. Member States argued that increased energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, in particular from indigenous resources, will also contribute to the achievement of the overall emissions reduction target, as well as to energy security, and stressed that research and innovation are essential for the development of low-carbon technologies.

(Source: Council of the European Union)

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/env/2015/03/st06932_en15_pdf/



European Commission – Consultation on Mid-term Review of 2011 White Paper on Transport

The European Commission launched a [public consultation](#) on the mid-term review of the 2011 White Paper on Transport. The consultation aims at collecting views on the [2011 White Paper on Transport](#): "Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system". This document defined a long-term vision for a transport sector that should continue to serve the needs of the economy and of the citizens while meeting future constraints: oil scarcity, growing congestion and the need to cut CO2 emissions. The 2011 White Paper identified three specific objectives:

- A reduction of GHG emissions that is consistent with the overall target for the EU of reducing emissions by 80% by 2050 compared to 1990. Transport-related emissions of CO2 should be reduced by around 60% by 2050 compared to 1990.
- A drastic decrease in the oil dependency ratio of transport-related activities by 2050, as requested by the EU 2020 Strategy for transport calling for "decarbonised transport".
- Limiting the growth of congestion.

The consultation will be open until 2nd June 2015 and the results will feed into the stock-taking of the 2011 White Paper and a refocusing of the strategy.

(Source: European Commission – DG TRAN)

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/media/consultations/2015-white-paper-2011-midterm-review_en.htm



TTIP priorities promoted around 8th negotiating round

CBI President Sir Mike Rake underlined the importance of free trade to get the European economy back on track in a recent meeting with European Commissioner for Trade, Cecilia Malmström. The value of businesses – especially small businesses – speaking up to explain how TTIP will help their export growth was discussed at length. Sir Rake also welcomed the Commission's recent interventions to show that TTIP poses no threat to public services in the UK including the NHS. In a separate meeting, the CBI met with US Government negotiators to discuss how some of the more challenging areas of the talks – including regulatory co-operation – can best be tackled. Clear action to reduce costs incurred from duplicate regulatory requirements should be a key feature of TTIP and is a top priority for the CBI.

(Source: CBI)

<http://news.cbi.org.uk/news/ttip-priorities-promoted-around-8th-negotiating-round/>

Week ahead

European Council

Thursday 19 – Friday 20 March

- Further orientations in view of building an Energy Union, Relations with Russia

European Parliament

Monday 16 March

- TRAN – Recommendations to the Commission on the negotiations for TTIP;

Tuesday 17 March

- TRAN – Implementation of the 2011 White Paper on Transport

Wednesday 18 March

- INTA:
 - Exchange of views on EU-Japan trade relations;
 - Recommendations to the Commission on the negotiations for TTIP;
 - Exchange of views on the public consultation on ISDS in TTIP
- ENVI – Report on ongoing interinstitutional negotiations on the Amendment to Fuel Quality Directive and the Renewable Energy Directive