

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 1 April

### European Commission launches its EU Transport White Paper

The European Commission has launched its EU Transport White Paper, detailing its long-term plans for transport infrastructure moving ahead towards 2050 targets. The Commission has stated that transport is fundamental to the European economy and society, with mobility vital for the internal market and for the quality of life for citizens as they enjoy their freedom to travel, enabling economic growth and job creation, whilst as the same time, the Commission strongly believes transport must become sustainable. The Commission is aware that oil will become scarce in future decades and this could directly affect people's ability to travel with consequences on inflation, trade balances and overall competitiveness of the EU economy. New technologies for vehicles and traffic management will be key to lower transport emissions in the EU. The Commission has stated that it would like to halve the use of 'conventionally-fuelled' cars in urban transport by 2030 and phase them out in cities by 2050. It also believes 30% of road freight over 300 km should shift to other modes such as rail or waterborne transport by 2030, and more than 50% by 2050, facilitated by efficient and green freight corridors. (Source: European Commission)

[ec.europa.eu/transport/strategies/doc/2011\\_white\\_paper/white\\_paper\\_com\(2011\)\\_144\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/strategies/doc/2011_white_paper/white_paper_com(2011)_144_en.pdf)

### MEPs welcome moves by the EU to set up an FTA with Japan

At an EU Summit, European leaders offered Japan a special pact granting preferential trade terms as it battles to recover from a natural disaster and nuclear emergency that has left more than 10,000 people dead. The EU "should offer the potential launch of negotiations for a free trade agreement" at a summit between the EU and Japan in May, it said in a last-minute addition to summit conclusions. The concession was offered "on the basis that Japan is

willing to tackle the issue of non-tariff barriers and restrictions on public procurement." Japan and India signed a free trade pact earlier this month and Tokyo is seeking more such partnerships as it looks to catch up with export rival South Korea and after China overtook it as the world's second-largest economy in 2010. The EU, meanwhile, is looking for ways to accelerate economic growth, with a debt crisis still hanging over member states. (Source: TheParliament)

[www.theparliament.com/latest-news/article/newsarticle/meps-welcome-possible-fta-with-japan/](http://www.theparliament.com/latest-news/article/newsarticle/meps-welcome-possible-fta-with-japan/)



### Commission makes €24.2 million available to the development of electromobility in Europe

The European Commission will support a cross-European electromobility initiative, Green eMotion, worth €41.8 million, in partnership with forty-two partners from the industries, utilities, electric car manufacturers, municipalities, universities and technology and research institutions. The aim of the initiative is to exchange and develop know-how and experience in selected regions within Europe as well as facilitate the market roll-out of electric vehicles in Europe. The Commission will make €24.2 million available to finance part of the initiative's activities. The project will cover different types of electric vehicles, the development of Smart Grids, innovative

Information and Communication Technologies solutions, and urban mobility concepts. Vice-President Siim Kallas, responsible for transport, said: "The level of EU financial support for this e-motion project shows just how serious we are at EU level about achieving these goals. This is a project tackles some of the practical problems and real bottlenecks for cities and companies who want to bring electric vehicles to the market. It is exactly the kind of initiative where European co-operation adds huge value. This is a very promising initiative for the future." (Source: European Commission)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/urban/vehicles/road/clean\\_transport\\_systems\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/urban/vehicles/road/clean_transport_systems_en.htm)

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## Council introduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions limits for light vans

The European Council of Ministers has approved the first CO<sub>2</sub> emission standards for small vans in the EU. The law introduces a limit of 175g CO<sub>2</sub>/km for the average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from light commercial vehicles registered in the EU. It will apply to small vans of average mass while specific targets for individual vehicles will vary according to their weight. The target will be phased in between 2014 and 2017: in 2014, 70% of a manufacturer's fleet will have to comply with it, rising to 75% in 2015 and 80% in 2016. From 2017, full compliance will be required from carmakers. In order to provide industry with planning certainty, a long-term target for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of light commercial vehicles in 2020 (147g CO<sub>2</sub>/km) has been included. The modalities for reaching the target are to be established by 1 January 2013 in a revision of the regulation. To incentivise investment in new technologies, from 2014 onwards producers will have to pay a penalty if their fleet fails to meet the target. (Source: Council of Ministers)

[www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/120914.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/120914.pdf)

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## EU consultation on transport technology plan

The European Commission is consulting on its approach to the research and deployment of future transport technologies. Responses will feed into an EU-wide strategic transport technology plan (STTP) to be published this summer. The STTP will cover the full "innovation chain", says the Commission, and should help achieve some of the goals set by the transport white paper, published in March 2011. The

consultation asks which technologies the STTP should focus on for the period to 2030. Options include systems for traffic management and freight optimisation, alternative fuels, and changes to vehicle design. It also asks which mechanisms should be used to encourage technology development. These could include some form of financial support or incentive for research, market mechanisms, or the centralised coordination of existing efforts. (Source: European Commission)  
[ec.europa.eu/transport/research/consultations/2011\\_05\\_28\\_sttp\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/research/consultations/2011_05_28_sttp_en.htm)

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## EU officials will limit travel to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

The European Commission wants to lead by example on reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions with a decision to apply the world's first personal carbon quotas on Commissioners and other Brussels officials. Connie Hedegaard, the EU's Climate Commissioner, has unveiled the plan as part of the Commission's contribution to the Rio Earth Summit in 2012. Personal carbon quotas impose a maximum quantity of CO<sub>2</sub> that each individual may emit into the atmosphere each year. Those who exceed their quota – for instance those who travel frequently by air or those who drive less efficient cars – can buy unused credits from individuals who have not used their own. The exact form that such quotas could take is still subject to internal debate. However, Hedegaard is believed to favour a system in which 'quota transfers' are possible, which would enable those commissioners who drive the least carbon-friendly cars, and who travel long haul most frequently, to 'buy' carbon credits from their more desk-bound colleagues, or those who drive eco-friendly cars. (Source: Euractiv)

[www.euractiv.com/en/climate-environment/eu-officials-limit-travel-drive-cut-co2-costs-news-503683](http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-environment/eu-officials-limit-travel-drive-cut-co2-costs-news-503683)

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## Week Ahead

### European Commission

No relevant activity

### Council of Ministers

No relevant activity

### European Parliament – Plenary Session

(Strasbourg)

Monday 4 April

Officially supported export credits – exchange of views

Monday 4 April

Control of exports of dual-use items of technology – exchange of views

Wednesday 6 April

Single market for enterprises and growth – exchange of views