

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 4 April

European Parliament adopts deal on the sound level of motor vehicles

The European Parliament adopted the Council's first reading position on a proposal for a Regulation on the sound level of motor vehicles on Wednesday 2 April. The text was adopted without a vote. Key details of the text include:

- The new rules will phase in new limits by 1 July 2016, 2020 and 2024. The limit for standard cars will be reduced to 68 decibels in 12 years, from the current level of 74 decibels.
- The agreement sees the introduction of a new test method for measuring noise emissions and includes the setting of noise limit values for the different vehicle categories.
- Manufacturers and distributors should display information on noise levels of vehicles at the point of sale and in printed and electronic promotional material such as brochures, leaflets and catalogues.
- A similar label to the one currently used for information on CO₂ emissions, fuel-consumption and tyre-noise should in future inform consumers about the sound emissions of a vehicle.
- Electric and hybrid electric vehicles will be equipped in the coming years with Acoustic Vehicle Alerting Systems (AVAS).

The adopted Regulation will be applicable two years after its entry into force.

(Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express.htm>

TRAN committee adopts agreements on eCall deployment and AFI

The European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) has endorsed agreements reached between the Council and the European Parliament on the deployment of an EU-wide eCall

system and on the Deployment of Alternative Fuels Infrastructure.

eCall deployment:

Key details of the agreement are:

- All new cars sold in the EU should be able to automatically alert emergency services to serious accidents from October 2015.
- Member States must have the infrastructure to handle eCalls in place at least 6 months before the type-approval requirements for the corresponding in-vehicle device start to apply, and in any case no later than 1 October 2017.
- The calls will be handled free of charge by a public authority or a private organisation recognised by the Member State. Member States have the right to organise its emergency services in the way most cost effective and appropriate to its needs.
- Data transmitted via the eCall service are used exclusively for the objectives of the eCall decision.
- Before the launch of the new system, citizens will be informed how to use the system, how to avoid false alarms and how the data involved are protected.

TRAN adopted the agreement with 23 votes in favour, 7 against and 2 abstentions. The agreement will be voted on by the European Parliament on 15 April 2014. The Council will then formally adopt the directive at a later stage.

Deployment of Alternative Fuels Infrastructure.

Key details of the agreement are:

- Member States need to ensure that enough refuelling and recharging stations are available to enable cars, trucks and ships using alternative fuels to move freely on EU roads and waterways.
- Member States will draft national plans and targets and implement them by 2020.
- The European Commission will coordinate and review the national plans.

TRAN adopted the agreement with 28 votes in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions. The agreement will be voted on by the European Parliament on 14 April 2014. The Council will then formally adopt the directive at a later stage.

Road safety: Second good year in a row puts Europe on track towards safety target

The European Commission has announced preliminary figures that show that the number of road fatalities has decreased by 8% compared to 2012, following the 9% decrease between 2011 and 2012. This means that the EU is now in a good position for reaching the strategic target of halving road deaths between 2010 and 2020. Country by country statistics show that the number of road deaths still varies greatly across the EU. On average, there were 52 road deaths per million inhabitants in the EU. The countries with the lowest number of road fatalities remain the UK, Sweden, the Netherlands and Denmark, reporting around 30 deaths per million inhabitants. Notably Spain, Germany and Slovakia have improved their positions on the list, moving in among the traditional top performers. Commenting on the figures EU Vice-President Siim Kallas, EU Commissioner for mobility and transport, stated: "Transport safety is a trademark of Europe. This is why it is extremely important that the good results from 2012 were not a one-off. I'm proud to see that the EU is fully back on track to reach the road safety target for 2020. However, there are still 70 people who die on Europe's roads every day, so we cannot be complacent. We must continue our joint efforts at all levels to further improve the safety on European roads."

(Source: European Commission

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-341_en.htm



Industrial producer prices down by 0.2% in both euro area and EU28

Figures published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, show that in February 2014, compared with January 2014, industrial producer prices fell by 0.2% in both the euro area (EA18) and the EU28. In January prices decreased by 0.3% in both zones. In February 2014, compared with February 2013, industrial producer prices decreased by 1.7% in the euro area and by 1.6% in the EU28. The 0.2% decrease in industrial producer prices in total industry in the euro area in February 2014, compared with January 2014, is due to falls of 0.5% in the energy sector and of 0.1% for intermediate goods, while prices remained stable for capital goods and non-durable consumer goods, and increased by 0.1% for durable consumer goods. Prices in total industry excluding energy remained stable. In the EU28, the 0.2% decrease is due to falls of 0.4% in the energy sector and of 0.1% for intermediate goods, while prices remained stable for capital goods and non-durable consumer goods, and rose by 0.1% for durable consumer goods. Prices in total industry excluding energy remained stable. The largest decreases in industrial producer prices were observed in Estonia (-1.9%), Slovakia (-1.6%), Greece (-1.5%), Lithuania (-0.9%), Slovenia (-0.8%) and Spain (-0.7%), and the only increases in Denmark (+0.4%), Hungary (+0.3%), Croatia (+0.2%), Cyprus and Finland (both +0.1%).

(Source: Eurostat)

file:///C:/Users/harrij/Downloads/STAT-14-53_EN.pdf

Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity

European Parliament

No relevant activity