

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 15 April

### Revision to the EU Energy Taxation Directive

The EU Commission has adopted a proposal to revise the Energy Taxation Directive. The proposal seeks to revise the 2003 Energy Taxation Directive to promote energy efficiency and increase consumption of more environmentally friendly products. The Commission proposes to split the minimum tax rate for fuels into two elements based CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and energy content. The minimum rate for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be set at €20 per ton for all sectors outside EU-ETS (transport, households, agriculture and small industries), whilst the minimum rate for energy content will be fixed at €9.6/GJ for motor fuels and €0.15/GJ for heating fuels. Both components taken together will determine the overall tax rate of a specific product. The European Commission proposes to introduce the new Energy Taxation Directive between 2013 and 2023 to allow industry time to adapt to the new taxation structure, and suggests that member states will be able to redesign their overall tax structures by shifting taxation from labour to consumption. (Source: European Commission)

[europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=P/11/468&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=P/11/468&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en)

### EU agrees a trade agreement with Colombia and Peru

The European Commission has finalised the legal review of the Trade Agreement with Colombia and Peru. Once endorsed, the Commission says this agreement would open up markets on both sides and increase the stability of this trade relationship that was worth €16 billion in bilateral trade in goods in 2010. Once fully implemented, the Agreement will eliminate tariffs in all industrial and fisheries products, increase market access for agricultural products, improve access to public procurement, services and investment markets, further reduce technical barriers to trade, and establish common disciplines including on intellectual property rights, transparency and competition. In 2010, the EU exported €3.9 billion of

goods and services to Colombia, importing €4.7 billion worth, with Peru on €2.3 billion n exports and €5.1 billion in imports. The EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht said: "This agreement is a milestone in our trade relations with the Andean region and creates the right framework to boost trade and investment on both sides. It creates a foothold for European business in the area and an anchor for structural reforms in the countries concerned." (Source: European Commission)

[europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/243&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/243&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en)



### Future EU budget must target energy efficiency - Hedegaard

The EU Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard, has told regional leaders that energy

efficiency must be given a bigger priority in the coming years and the EU budget should be used to leverage investments in energy-saving measures. Hedegaard believes the EU should use its financial resources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and raise energy efficiency standards. The Climate Commissioner said the EU budget must be used in a more targeted way, and structural and cohesion funds should finance energy efficiency measures. Hedegaard believes the main area for improvement is energy efficiency and where the EU is failing to live up to the commitments it has already made in the framework of the 'climate and energy package' that was adopted in 2009. The Commission estimates that across the EU as a whole, some €270 billion of investment will be needed each year to support the transition to low-carbon solutions in all areas of activity including buildings, transport and agriculture. The Commissioner pointed to several examples of existing initiatives, such as carbon-proofing and climate-screening of infrastructure projects; public transport projects that reduce pollution and create jobs; and investments in renewable energy. Ms. Hedegaard said: "Regions can promote structural change, but they often lack knowledge and capacity and this is reflected in the lower use of EU regional funding for climate-related projects than for other project." (Source: Euractiv)

[www.euractiv.com/en/energy-efficiency/future-eu-budget-target-energy-efficiency-hedegaard-news-504027](http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy-efficiency/future-eu-budget-target-energy-efficiency-hedegaard-news-504027)



## Europe's automotive manufacturers invite young people to shape future of transport

The car, truck and bus makers in Europe have together opened a campaign to invite young adults across Europe to share their ideas and thoughts about

the future of transport. 'Our Future Mobility Now' seeks to give today's youth a voice about how to move people and goods in an increasingly fast-paced, connected and global world and respond to environmental, societal and economic challenges at the same time. Through an online competition for the most creative ideas, the automotive industry will invite up to 50 young people to a special launch event in Brussels in June to explore topics such as new mobility services, future skills, new technologies and connectivity. The dialogue will then be continued online as well as with on-site activities across Europe. The event in Brussels will be held in close cooperation with the EU 'Youth on the Move' project promoting mobility in education and training throughout Europe. The online competition for event invitation will run until the end of May 2011 and is open to young people between 18 and 30 years old living in Europe.

(Source: Future Mobility Now)

[www.futuremobilitynow.com](http://www.futuremobilitynow.com)



## Week ahead

### European Commission

No relevant activity

### Council of Ministers

No relevant activity

### European Parliament

ECON

Tuesday 19 – Wednesday 20 April

Derivatives, central counterparties and trade repositories – consideration of amendments

JURI

Tuesday 19 – Wednesday 20 April

Legal migration after Lisbon: Intra-corporate Transfers - hearing