

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 19 April

### New EU rules for safer and more environmental lorries

The European Commission has proposed new rules to allow manufacturers to develop more aerodynamic lorries which will reduce fuel consumption, cut emissions of greenhouse gases, and also enhance the safety of vulnerable road users. The proposal will allow cabins with a rounded shape and for the use of aerodynamic flaps at the back the trailer. The Commission claims that these measures will considerably improve the aerodynamics of vehicles, saving approximately €5,000 per year in fuel costs for a typical long-distance lorry covering 100,000 km. This represents a 7–10% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (or 7.8 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> for the same long-distance lorry covering 100,000 km). At the same time, the field of vision of the driver will be improved, a change that is estimated to help save the lives of 300 to 500 vulnerable road users such as pedestrians or cyclists every year. Commenting on the proposal, Commission Vice-President Siim Kallas, responsible for transport, stated: "A brick is the least aerodynamic shape you can imagine, that's why we need to improve the shape of the lorries on our roads. These changes make road transport cleaner and safer. They will reduce hauliers' fuel bills and give European manufacturers a head-start in designing the truck of the future, a greener truck for the global market." The current proposal must be adopted by the European Parliament and Member States before becoming law. The new trucks could be expected to be seen on the roads by 2018-2020.

(Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-328\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-328_en.htm)

### EU new car registrations down 10.2% in March

Figures published by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, show that demand for new passenger cars was on the decline for the 18th consecutive month in March, totaling 1,307,107 units, down 10.2%. Over the first quarter of 2013, new car registrations amounted to 2,989,486 units, or 9.8%

less than in the first three months of 2012. In March, the UK remained a resilient market, posting a 5.9% growth, while Italy (-4.9%), Spain (-13.9%), France (-16.2%) and Germany (-17.1%) saw their demand decrease. Overall, the EU\* recorded a total of 1,307,107 new cars, or 10.2% less than in March 2012. From January to March, except for the UK (+7.4%), all major markets faced a double-digit downturn ranging from -11.5% in Spain to -12.9% in Germany, -13.0% in Italy and -14.6% in France. Overall new car registrations decreased by 9.8% in the first quarter, compared to the same period a year earlier. (Source: ACEA)

[http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news\\_detail/passenger\\_car\\_registrations\\_-9.8\\_in\\_first\\_quarter\\_-10.2\\_in\\_march](http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/passenger_car_registrations_-9.8_in_first_quarter_-10.2_in_march)



### EU-US trade talks to begin in summer and EU-Japan trade talks commence

EU trade ministers have set an end of June deadline to reach an accord on the mandate to start negotiating a transatlantic trade and investment partnership that is strongly backed by EU leaders and US President Barack Obama. According to assessments made by the European Commission and other European bodies, a comprehensive Trade and Investment Partnership could over time boost EU GDP by 0.5% annually and help create approximately 400,000 jobs in the EU. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) will extend beyond the removal of tariffs, to include the opening of markets on

investment, services and public procurement. In addition, it will focus on aligning rules and technical product standards which currently form the most important barrier to transatlantic trade. The EU and Japan have finished the first week-long round of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The EU team is headed up by Mauro Petriccione, Director in the European Commission's Directorate General for Trade, the Japanese side being led by Ambassador Jun Yokota, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The aim is for a comprehensive agreement in goods, services and investment eliminating tariffs, non-tariff barriers and covering other trade-related issues, such as public procurement, regulatory issues, competition, and sustainable development. The next round of negotiations will take place in Tokyo from 24 June with a further round envisaged later in the year. (Source: Euractiv/European Commission)

<http://www.euractiv.com/trade/eu-us-trade-talk-june-news-519237>

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-13-348\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-348_en.htm?locale=en)



## Week ahead

### European Commission

26 April

Commission to propose measures to facilitate workers' mobility

### Council of Ministers

22 April

General Affairs Council: This General Affairs Council will take stock of progress regarding the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for the 2014 - 2020 period.

### European Parliament (Committee week)

#### TRAN

22 April

- Fluorinated greenhouse gases.: Consideration of draft opinion

- A strategy for an Electronic Toll Service and a vignette system on light private vehicles in Europe: Consideration of amendments

23 April

- A strategy for an Electronic Toll Service and a vignette system on light private vehicles in Europe: Vote
- Periodic roadworthiness test for motor vehicles and their trailers: Consideration of amendments
- Technical roadside inspections of the roadworthiness of commercial vehicles circulating in the Union: Consideration of amendments
- Registration documents for vehicles: Consideration of amendments
- Road cabotage and presentation of two studies: Social and working condition of road transport hauliers; Development and implementation of road cabotage: Exchange of views

### EMPL

22 April

- Minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of worker to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields): Exchange of views

23 April

- Minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of worker to the risks arising from physical agents: Vote

### ENVI

24 April

- Modalities for reaching the 2020 target to reduce CO2 emissions from new light commercial vehicles: Consideration of amendments
- Modalities for reaching the 2020 target to reduce CO2 emissions from new passenger cars : Adoption of draft report

### INTA

25 April

- EU trade and investment agreement negotiations with the United States: Adoption of motion for a resolution
- FTA negotiations between the EU and Thailand and trade relations: Exchange of views

### ITRE

25 April

- Periodic roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers: Vote
- Technical roadside inspection of the roadworthiness of commercial vehicles circulating in the Union: Vote