

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 26 April

EP Environment Committee votes on New Car CO₂

The European Parliament's Environment Committee has adopted a report on the modalities for reaching the 2020 target to reduce CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars. MEPs voted with 45 votes in favour, 15 against and 3 abstentions concerning the proposal as amended and with 47 votes in favour, 17 against and 1 abstention concerning the draft legislative resolution as a whole. MEPs also voted on the mandate to open negotiations with the Council with 46 votes in favour, 17 against and 2 abstentions. Key proposals in the report include:

- Indicative target for 2025 between 68g/km and 78g/km unless a lower target is justified.
- Review 2025 target modalities and derogations by 1 January 2017.
- Worldwide harmonised Light vehicles Test Procedures (WLTP) to be introduced in EU law by 2014 and implemented by 2017
- Super credits: <50g/km counted as 1.5 passenger cars in the period from 2016 to 2023 subject to a cap of 2.5g of CO₂/km per year for each manufacturer.
- The Commission shall monitor real reported CO₂ values by vehicle type and manufacturer on the basis of the best available sources of information and shall publish in its annual monitoring reports how those values compare with type approval values
- Review of eco-innovation procedures by end of 2013.

Following the vote, ACEA, the European Automotive Manufacturers' Association, called for a "more realistic and balanced approach to CO₂ emissions policy" with ACEA Secretary General, Ivan Hodac, stating: "Policy makers should not lose sight of the fact that Europe and its automobile industry play a leading role in the global challenge to reduce CO₂ emissions." The vote on light commercial vehicles will be held in the Environment Committee on 6-7 May.

(Source: Environment Committee)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/envi/home.html>

<http://www.acea.be/>

EU commercial vehicle registrations down 9.8% in March

Figures published by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, shows that new commercial vehicle registrations in the EU dropped for the fifteenth consecutive month in March, down 9.8% to 166,402 units. Most markets contracted, including France (-10.2%), Germany (-18.5%), Spain (-20.2%) and Italy (-20.3%), with the UK as the only major market to post growth (+7.7%). In the first quarter of the year registrations also dropped, down 11% in the EU. All major markets faced a downturn, ranging from -10.7% in France, to -16.4% in Germany, -18.7% in Spain and -25.0% in Italy, with the UK again the only market to post growth (up 6.6%). In total, 401,838 new vehicles were recorded in the first three months of 2013. (Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/commercial_vehicle_registrations_-_11.0_in_first_quarter_-9.8_in_march



Roadworthiness discussed in TRAN Committee

The Roadworthiness Package, concerning the periodic test inspection of vehicles (MOTs in the UK), has been discussed in the European Transport Committee. The Rapporteur, Werner Kuhn provided an update on the package, following the tabling of amendments by MEPs. Mr Kuhn noted that many

MEPs have asked to change the legal status of the proposal to a directive, and that with regards the inclusion of trailers within the scope, a compromise will have to be reached (with numerous amendments calling for the exemption of category O1 and O2 from the scope of the proposal). The issue of the frequency of testing was also raised with Mr Kuhn stating that he favoured a proposal with the lowest common denominator. Amendments focusing on separating maintenance and repair operations from testing were also discussed, with Mr Kuhn stating that he was not in favour of legal separation (unbundling) but rather of a feasible solution to the issue, highlighting amendments proposing compliance to ISO standards as a possible compromise. The proposal will be voted on in the Transport Committee on 30 May 2103, with the indicative plenary sitting date set as 2 July 2013. (Source: TRAN Committee)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/tran/home.html>

MEPs urge Council to launch trade and investment talks with US

MEPs in the European Parliament's International Trade Committee have adopted a resolution calling on the EU Council of Ministers to authorize the start of Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) talks with the US in June. The text calls on the European Commission, which will negotiate the TTIP on the EU's behalf, also to talk to the widest possible range of stakeholders, so that various interests can be taken into account. The resolution is to be debated and put to vote by Parliament as a whole in May. EU member states are expected to authorise Commission to start the talks in June. (Source: European Parliament)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20130422IPR07524/html/Trade-MEPs-urge-Council-to-launch-trade-and-investment-talks-with-US>

Worldwide new registrations down 1.9 % in March

Figures published by Polk shows that global demand for passenger vehicles fell 1.9% in March compared to last year. Demand in the Asia/Pacific region increased slightly whilst India and Japan are down significantly due to last year's sales being inflated by incentives. China reported double-digit growth while Eastern Europe (down 3.7%) is continuing to suffer from the impact of the financial crisis. The NAFTA region

(down 0.5%) was down due to sales in the same month of last year being inflated (significant promotions), while Latin America (up 3%) posted a gain. Western Europe (down 10%) was once again down sharply from the year before. Except for the UK (up 7%), all major Western European markets declined significantly. Polk noted that in addition to the general situation, the smaller number of workdays in March played a role. (Source: Polk)

<https://www.polk.com/>



Week ahead

European Commission

29 April

EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change: The European Commission is planning to launch their strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change at a one-day launch event. According to the Commission the overall goal of the strategy is to support coherent, multi-level, multi-sector integrated adaptation policies in the EU.

Council of Ministers

2/3 May

Informal meeting of the Competitiveness Council: This informal meeting of the Competitiveness Council will focus on a number of priority issues under key themes including 'SMEs as drivers of growth', 'Challenges for Copyright in the Digital Era', 'Optimising the Innovation Ecosystem' and 'Optimising the Benefits of Research Investment for European jobs, growth and society'.

European Parliament (Constituency week)

No relevant meetings