

European Parliament approves eCall type-approval requirements

On 28 April, the European Parliament cast the definitive vote to adopt the eCall type-approval legislation, mandating emergency call technology as a standard feature in all new vehicles from 2018. Following a decade of negotiation, the final eCall legislation includes a mandate to the Commission to consider interoperable, standardised, and secure and open-access network for the eCall communication. This has the potential to ensure that users widely benefit from new connectivity features of their vehicles thanks to eCall. It can also ensure that consumers eventually make the best use of their personal data for additional connected car services. The legislation further stipulates that eCall data gathered by emergency centres or their service partners must not be transferred to third parties without the explicit consent of the person concerned. Manufacturers will also have to ensure that the eCall technology design permits full and permanent deletion of data gathered.

(Source: FIA)

http://www.fiaregion1.com/en/fia_region_1/news/from-2018-ecall-will-be-saving-2500-lives-annually-in-the-eu.htm

10th round of EU-Japan free trade negotiations held

The EU and Japan held the 10th round of free trade agreement (FTA) talks in Tokyo from 22 to 29 April. The round focussed on further consolidation of the negotiating texts. The two negotiating teams, led by the European Commission Deputy Director General for Trade, Mauro Petriccione, and the Japanese Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasumasa Nagamine, discussed most of the areas to be included in the future free trade agreement, such as: tariffs, public procurement, services, investment, competition, rules of origin, customs and trade facilitation, intellectual property rights, including geographical indications, dispute settlement and trade and sustainable development. This is the last round before

the EU-Japan Summit in May and it is expected that further positive developments will be announced at the Summit. The 11th round of FTA talks is scheduled to take place in Brussels before the summer break.

(Source: Europa)

<http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1299>



AFV registrations up 28.8% in first quarter

In the first quarter of 2015, total alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) registrations in the EU significantly increased (+28.8%), totalling 144,421. Of these, electric vehicles (EVs) saw their registrations more than double, rising from 11,304 units in Q1 2014 to 24,630 units in Q1 2015 (+117.9%). Demand for new hybrid cars also increased (+21.4%), totalling 56,704 units in the first three months of the year. Propane and natural gas powered 63,087 new cars during this period, or 16.5% more than in the first quarter of 2014. Looking at the EU's major markets, the UK saw the largest increase of AFVs registered over the period (+64.2%), followed by France (+33.9%), Italy (+18.1%) and Germany (+11.3%). Among the EFTA countries, the Norwegian market grew by 32.7%, reaching 10,901 units.

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/alternative-fuel-vehicle-registrations-28.8-in-in-first-quarter>

CV registrations up 13.3% in first quarter

In March 2015, demand for commercial vehicles in the EU increased for the third consecutive month (+20.7%), marking the highest monthly growth since December 2013 and totalling 223,749 units. Growth was sustained across all segments of commercial vehicles. In the first quarter of 2015, the EU market expanded by 13.3%, totalling 502,210 commercial vehicles. During the same period, Spain (+42.3%), the UK (+24.2%), Germany (+7.1%) and Italy (+7.0%) all posted growth, while France was the only major market to record a decline (-0.5%). March 2015 results showed a 27.9% increase in new heavy truck registrations, totalling 24,649 units. This positive outcome was mainly sustained by the significant growth recorded in the UK (+77.6%), Spain (+41.0%), Italy (+44.4%) and France (+22.1%). (Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/commercial-vehicle-registrations-13.3infirstquarter20.7inmarch>

Juncker does not rule out minor treaty changes

In an interview with the BBC, EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has said he wants a "fair deal" for the UK in Europe and does not rule out making minor changes to EU treaties. However, in relation to concerns surrounding freedom of movement, a core value of the EU, Juncker stated that major treaty changes would be excluded. Mr Juncker said he did not want Britain to leave the EU, but also did not want Britain to "impose a European agenda which would not be shared by others". He continued by saying that "I do think that we need a fair deal with Britain - but it's up to Britain to put forward their proposals, their requests, their ideas. It's up to them to take initiatives and then we'll take them under exam in a very polite, friendly, objective way." His comments come ahead of next week's UK General Election where the issue of EU relations has been a key policy debate throughout the campaign. (Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-32495060>

Week ahead

European Commission

Wednesday 6 May

- Green infrastructure: a European success story
- Commission to unveil Digital Single Market Strategy

European Council

Thursday 7 May

- Foreign Affairs Council – The Foreign Affairs Council will focus on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment partnership with the United States (TTIP), more specifically on the provisions for the settlement of investor-state disputes.

European Parliament

Tuesday 5 May – TRAN

- Hearing on Road haulage market.

Wednesday 6 May – ITRE

- Briefing by the European Commission on TTIP negotiations.

Wednesday 6 May – ENVI

- Consideration of draft report on reduction of pollutant emissions from road vehicles. Deadline for tabling amendments: 19 May 2015.
- Consideration of draft opinion on sustainable urban mobility. Deadline for tabling amendments: 18 May 2015.

Wednesday 6 May – ECON

- Building a Capital Markets Union

