

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 3 May

### New Car CO<sub>2</sub> emissions decline in Europe

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has published its monitoring report on passenger car emissions, showing average new car CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have continued to decline across the EU, falling 2.6% to 132.2g/km in 2012. In addition, the report highlights that the average car registered in the EU in 2012 was 9% more fuel-efficient than the average car bought in 2009. The report stresses that a significant step-change in the types of vehicle technologies available to motorists and how they are used is needed to ensure the decarbonisation of road transport in the EU. Connie Hedegaard, EC Climate Action Commissioner said, "This clearly shows that it helps to set standards and European car makers are embracing the opportunities of moving to a low-carbon economy by delivering cars that are increasingly fuel efficient and emit less and less CO<sub>2</sub>. In doing this, the European car industry will not only remain competitive in the changing global market but is also benefiting consumers, who are saving money on fuel."

(Source: EEA)

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/monitoring-co2-emissions-from-new-cars#>



### Commission confirms improving SME finance as critical for growth

A joint European Commission-European Investment Bank (EIB) Group report has reiterated the critical issue of improving SME access to finance as vital for growth across Europe. The report outlines the results of the current funding schemes supported by the EIB Group, which totalled €13 billion in 2012. Alongside the report, European Commission Vice President Antonio Tajani, Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, also launched a single online portal for EU financial instruments for SMEs as well as other information to support SMEs in accessing new funding streams. (Source: European Commission)

<http://access2eufinance.ec.europa.eu/youreurope/business/finance-support/access-to-finance/>

### Communication on energy technologies and innovation published

The Commission has published a Communication on technologies and innovation, which takes a strategic approach in aiming to enable the EU to have a leading technology and innovation sector. The Communication states: "New technologies are vital to achieve all of the EU 2020 objectives in energy, climate, economic and social policy, as well as those for 2030 and 2050. The EU must have a strong and dynamic technology and innovation strategy both to deliver its policy goals strengthen its competitiveness and to better coordinate investments." The strategy goes to 2020 and beyond and includes priorities around low-carbon technologies, reducing costs and removing barriers and delays on bringing new technologies to market. The communication also proposes the development of an Integrated Roadmap addressing the energy system as a whole and measures along the entire innovation chain by the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan stakeholders and the design of Action Plans with Member States. (Source: European Commission)

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/strategy/doc/comm\\_2013\\_0253\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/strategy/doc/comm_2013_0253_en.pdf)

## EU economic forecast and business climate published

The spring economic forecast for the EU has been published, stating expectations for stability in the EU economy in the first half of 2013 and projecting GDP growth to turn positive gradually in the second half of the year before gaining some traction in 2014. Annual GDP growth this year is now forecast at -0.1% in the EU and at -0.4% in the euro area. For 2014, economic activity is projected to expand by 1.4% in the EU and 1.2 % in the euro area. Olli Rehn, Commission Vice-President for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Euro said: "In view of the protracted recession, we must do whatever it takes to overcome the unemployment crisis in Europe. The EU's policy mix is focused on sustainable growth and job creation. Fiscal consolidation is continuing, but its pace is slowing down. In parallel, structural reforms must be intensified to unlock growth in Europe."

(Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-396\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-396_en.htm?locale=en)



## Week ahead

### European Commission

7 May

High-level conference: "The Blueprint for a deep and genuine EMU"

### Council of Ministers

No relevant meetings

### European Parliament

6 May

Transport Committee exchange of views on the deployment of and alternative fuels infrastructure and consideration of draft report on ILUC and FQD

6 May

Environment committee consideration of draft report on ILUC and FQD

7 May

Environment committee vote on Van CO2 and on reindustrialising Europe