

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 4 May

2020 van emissions target 'in reach', says study

A TNO report prepared for the European Commission presents an updated analysis of the feasibility and costs of reducing the average CO₂ emissions from new light commercial vehicles (LCVs/vans). The new report complements an equivalent analysis for passenger cars. The report states that meeting a provisional new emissions target for vans by 2020 will be less costly than estimated three years ago. The report will feed into an impact assessment due this summer on the practicality of introducing a fleet-average target of 147 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometre for 2020. A separate 175gCO₂/km target for vans, to be met by 2017, entered force last year. Several factors influenced the study's conclusions, including the increased popularity of lighter and less carbon-intensive vans and the cost-effectiveness of new technologies. The report largely recommends continuing with the current policy framework. It dismisses, for instance, a suggestion that vehicle footprint or volume be used to set targets for individual manufacturers, rather than mass. The alternatives are easier to manipulate, it argues, and using mass distributes costs more evenly across vehicle types. A change in the rules would also give manufacturers little time to adapt following the mass-based 2017 target, the study says, stating that the proposed €95/gCO₂/km penalty for non-compliance should be "more than enough". The report does not consider the potential impact of electric vans on the emissions reduction target. (Source: ENDS)

<http://www.endseurope.com/28704/2020-van-emissions-target-in-reach-says-study?referrer=news>

Economic sentiment remains flat in the EU in April 2012

The Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI) remained stable in April in the EU at 93.2. In the euro area it decreased significantly by 1.7 points (to 92.8), thereby offsetting the gains recorded over the first quarter of 2012. The decline in the euro area was mainly driven by weakening confidence in the industry and services sectors. Confidence improved only in the retail sector.

The more positive reading of the ESI in the EU reflects a strong improvement in the UK. In both regions, the ESI remains well below its long term average. Most member states witnessed a drop in economic sentiment. Among the seven largest Members States, the ESI registered the sharpest fall in Italy (-5.7), followed by Poland (-2.3), Spain (-1.8) and Germany (-1.0). The indicator remained broadly unchanged in France (-0.4) and improved in the Netherlands (+1.2) and, particularly, in the UK (+4.2). The ESI remains above its long-term average only in Germany. In addition, the Business Climate Indicator (BCI) for the euro area decreased by 0.24 points to -0.52 in April. The decline was mainly driven by a more negative assessment of export order books, production expectations, past production and overall order books. Managers' assessment of their stocks of finished products remained broadly unchanged.

(Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/425&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>





Week ahead

European Commission

Friday 11 May: The Commission will publish its spring economic forecast

Council of Ministers

10- 11 May: Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

European Parliament (Committees/Mini Plenary - Brussels)

7 – 8 May: TRAN – Consideration of amendments on Recording Equipment in Road Transport; Consideration of a draft report on Sound Level of Motor Vehicles.

9 May: Statement by the President on the Future of Europe

10 May: Vote – first reading of protection against dumped imports from countries not member of the European Community; Vote – first reading of export and import of dangerous chemicals