

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 10 May

### ACEA calls for balance between competitiveness and environmental concerns

The European Automobile Association (ACEA) has called for a more realistic balance between the competitiveness of the industry and environmental concerns, in reaction to the vote on Tuesday 7 May on reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from vans by the European Parliament's Environment Committee (ENVI). The ENVI Committee adopted the 'Modalities for reaching the 2020 target to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new light commercial vehicles' report with 53 votes for, 4 against and 1 abstention. Key points of the report include:

- confirming the target of 147g CO<sub>2</sub>/km to be reached by 2020,
- setting a long-term target for 2025 at an indicative range of 105g to 120g CO<sub>2</sub>/km as average emissions (the Commission will make a proposal in January 2017 at the latest based on an impact assessment),
- adopting a new test cycle procedure by 2017 based on the new UN-defined World Light Duty Test Procedure (WLTP), which reflects the real conditions in which vehicles are used,
- continuing the super-credits scheme to 2023 (encouraging carmaker's to make cleaner light commercial vehicles that emit less than 50g of CO<sub>2</sub>).

Commenting on the report ACEA stated that the automotive industry has a strong track record for meeting its environmental obligations, noting that "no other industry sector has done as much in driving down emission levels, both from its products and its production sites". The commercial vehicle segment of the industry has been particularly hard hit by the economic crisis, with registrations dropping by 39% between 2007 and 2012. One issue of particular concern to the European automotive industry is the setting of long-term targets without any impact assessment. Ivan Hodac, Secretary General of ACEA, stated: "We cannot afford to play political games with this industry, especially in these economic times. Targets for both vans and cars need to be fact-based. At this stage, even the European Commission does

not have an analysis of what the post-2020 targets for vans should be." (Source: ACEA)

[http://www.acea.be/news/news\\_detail/press\\_release\\_van\\_co2\\_legislation\\_industry\\_calls\\_for\\_balance\\_between\\_compet](http://www.acea.be/news/news_detail/press_release_van_co2_legislation_industry_calls_for_balance_between_compet)



### New Director General of the World Trade Organisation announced

Roberto Azevedo has been announced as the new Director General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Mr Azevedo, Brazil's ambassador to the WTO since 2008, was competing for the post with Mexico's former trade minister Herminio Blanco and will be the first Latin American to head the WTO since its creation in 1995. Responding to the announcement, Business Secretary Vince Cable stated: "Ambassador Azevedo is an acknowledged trade expert and will bring many years of experience as a negotiator to the role. It's vital we maintain momentum around ongoing trade negotiations and I welcome the energy Ambassador Azevedo will bring to the immediate priority of securing a deal on the important elements of the Doha Round at the next WTO Ministerial Conference in December in Bali."

(Source: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-new-director-general-of-the-world-trade-organisation-was-announced-today>

## European ministers set out timetable for EU ETS reform

Energy and Environment Ministers from nine European member states, including the UK, France and Germany, have set out action they want to see this year to reform the EU's Emissions Trading System (ETS) to ensure it remains at the forefront of EU policies to combat climate change and drive low carbon investments. The joint statement sets out clear direction and deadlines on next steps on EU ETS reform including:

- Calls for national governments in the Council and MEPs in the Parliament to come to a resolution to backloading proposals by July this year at the latest
- Calls for the European Commission to produce a legislative proposal to deliver proper structural reform to the EU ETS by the end of this year at the latest
- Clarification on the key arguments and myths over the potential costs and risks of the backloading proposal that were communicated to MEPs in the run up to the European Parliament's vote in April

(Source: DECC)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/european-ministers-set-out-timetable-for-eu-ets-reform>

