

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 16 May

TTIP: Negotiating position for motor vehicles published by European Commission

The European Commission has published negotiating positions on five topics key to the current talks with the US on a future trade and investment deal, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The five relevant sectors are motor vehicles, chemicals, cosmetics, pharmaceutical products and textiles and clothing. For each sector, the papers focus on ways to end the unnecessary duplication of product testing or plant inspections, recognise each other's existing regulations, or bring them more closely together, and to align the respective procedures for approving or registering new products. With regards to the motor vehicles sector, the aim set out by the paper is to achieve compatibility without lowering standards on either side. It identifies two main objectives to achieve this:

- Recognising each other's existing standard and regulations
- Working together more closely to draw up future regulations, especially on new technologies.

The report states that closer EU-US cooperation within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) could also help to set new global regulations. Agreement in these areas could lower costs to manufacturers and ultimately to consumers. The full version of the document relating to the motor vehicles sector can be found [here](#):

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-350_en.htm



New ACEA president elected

Carlos Ghosn, Chairman and CEO of Renault, has been elected by the Board of Directors of the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) as its new President. Mr Ghosn will be taking over effective immediately from Mr Philippe Varin. ACEA Secretary General Erik Jonnaert stated "Mr Ghosn will lead ACEA through an important period of political transition in Europe. Under his presidency, ACEA will continue to focus on its key policy recommendations, which are to drive innovation, to foster growth through international trade and to call for a supportive regulatory framework".

(Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/carlos_ghosn_elected_acea_president

EU leaders postpone decision on 2030 targets

A decision on the 2030 energy and climate package published by the Commission in January has been postponed, with heads of state and governments deciding they would agree the bloc's future policies in October. The cause of the delay is a disagreement between member states over whether the EU should set binding renewable energy and energy efficiency targets for 2030, as well as setting one for CO₂. Eastern European countries have also requested a detailed assessment of the potential economic impacts of any 2030 targets on individual countries before they agree to a decision. However, it was agreed that climate change and energy targets must allow flexibility as to how member states deliver their commitments and determine their own energy mix. The leaders plan to make the final decision themselves, instead of delegating it to their energy and climate ministers.

(Source: European Commission)

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/2030/index_en.htm

EU new car registrations rise 4.6% in April 2014

The European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA) has released figures showing that the number of passenger cars registered in the EU has risen by 4.6% in April, an increase for the eighth consecutive month. This is also an increase of 7.6% for the first four months of the current year, with a total of 4,336,013 units registered so far. For April, the only major market to post a decrease in registrations was Germany with 3.6%, with other countries posting varied levels of registrations, from +1.9% in Italy, +5.8% in France and +8.2% in the UK to +28.7% in Spain. Overall registrations for the year are strongest in Spain and the UK, with 16.2% and 12.5% respectively, although all major markets showed growth.

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/passenger-car-registrations-7.4-over-four-months-4.6-in-april>

Industrial production figures for EU published

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, has released estimates which show that compared with February 2014, seasonally adjusted industrial production in March 2014 fell by 0.3% in the euro area, and by 0.2% in the EU28. Compared with figures from March 2013, industrial production dropped by 0.1% in the euro area and increased by 0.5% in the EU28.

(Source: Europa)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-14-75_en.htm?locale=en



2013 showed lower emissions but surplus of allowances persists

Information recorded in the European Union Registry has shown that emissions of greenhouse gases from installations participating in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) are estimated to have decreased by at least 3% last year. However, the cumulative surplus in emission allowances increased further from almost 2 billion at the end of 2012 to more than 2.1 billion for the 2013 compliance year. Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard stated: "emissions declined faster than in previous years...however, there is still a growing surplus of emission allowances that risks undermining the orderly functioning of the carbon market". The Commission has already adopted a temporary back-loading measure to address these concerns, and has proposed to establish a market stability reserve. It is expected that in 2014 the surplus will start to shrink as the implementation of back-loading has started in the first quarter of 2014.

(Source: Europa)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-561_en.htm?locale=en

Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity

Council of Ministers

No relevant activity

European Parliament

The parliament is no longer sitting due to the upcoming European elections.

The UK elections for the European Parliament will take place on Thursday 22 May.