

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 18 May

European Commission to present plans for ETS review by July 2012

European Climate Commissioner, Connie Hedegaard, has stated that the European Commission will publish a review of possible solutions to the slump in EU emissions trading scheme (ETS) prices by the summer recess in July. The review will look at changing the auctioning schedule for allowances in the third phase of the scheme – as announced last month – and other "more structural options" such as the set-aside of allowances. Ms Hedegaard made the announcement as the Commission revealed that the number of surplus EU allowances in the ETS now stands at 900 million – up from 450 million at the end of 2010. The growth is partly because of a fall in emissions of more than 2% and a record use of international offsets last year. ETS participants emitted about 1.8 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2011, but the exact amount is unknown because installations in Cyprus and Lichtenstein still have to submit data. Compliance was high, with fewer than 1% of installations failing to surrender enough allowances to cover their 2011 emissions by the 30 April deadline. The non-compliant installations are mostly small and their joint emissions account for less than 1% of the ETS's total coverage. (Source: ENDS) <http://www.endseurope.com/28821/ec-to-present-plans-for-ets-review-by-july?referrer=news>

EU new car registrations down 6.9% in April

Figures published by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, show that in April 2012, 1,017,912 new passenger cars were registered in the EU, or 6.9% less than in the same month of 2011. Four months into the year, new registrations were 7.5% lower in the EU than a year earlier, adding up to 4,332,342 units. No calendar effect occurred as the month counted the same number of working days as in April 2011 throughout the region. In April, the UK (+3.3%) and Germany (+2.9%) were the only major markets to post growth, while France contracted by 1.9%, and Italy (-18.0%) and Spain (-21.7%) recorded

double-digit downturns. From January to April, Germany (+1.8%) and the UK (+1.4%) sustained demand in the region while the rest of the major markets faced contractions ranging from -7.0% in Spain to -17.5% in France and -20.2% in Italy. In addition Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, has released figures that show In March 2012 compared with February 2012, seasonally adjusted industrial production fell by 0.3% in the euro area and by 0.4% in the EU27. In February production rose by 0.8% and 0.4% respectively. In March 2012 compared with March 2011, industrial production dropped by 2.2% in the euro area and by 1.9% in the EU27. (Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/passenger_cars_registrations_decrease_by_6.9_in_april



GDP in the EU remains stable in Q1 2012

Figures published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, show that GDP remained stable in both the euro area and the EU27 during the first quarter of 2012 at 0.0% and +0.1% respectively. In the fourth quarter of 2011, growth rates were -0.3% in both zones. During the first quarter of 2012, GDP in the United States increased by 0.5% compared with the previous quarter (after +0.7% in the fourth quarter of 2011). In addition, figures for the euro area's trade in goods balance with the rest of the world in March 2012 gave a 8.6 billion euro surplus, compared with +1.0 billion in March 2011. The February 2012 balance was +2.3 billion, compared with -2.9 billion in February 2011. In March 2012 compared with

February 2012, seasonally adjusted exports fell by 0.9% and imports by 1.1%. However, in the wider EU, the trade balance for March 2012 showed a 6.7 billion euro deficit, compared with -11.8 billion in March 2011. In February 2012 the balance was 12.0 billion, compared with -10.6 billion in February 2011. In March 2012 compared with February 2012, seasonally adjusted exports fell by 0.2% and imports by 0.9%. (Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/12/74&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity

Council of Ministers

No relevant activity

European Parliament (Full Plenary Session - Strasbourg)

22 May – Commission – Question time

23 May – A resource efficient Europe – Debate/ vote