

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 25 May

European Commission launches 'Your First EURES job' pilot project

The European Commission has launched a pilot project to help young people find a job in another EU country. In its initial phase 'Your first EURES job' will aim to improve cross-border mobility for 5,000 people. It will also serve as a testing ground for transforming EURES, the network of Member States' employment services, towards a pan-European employment service. As announced in the Commission's April 2012 Employment Package the Commission intends to improve EURES so as to provide more transparency on the European labour market and direct jobseekers and job changers to where the jobs are. It will also provide easier and real-time access to vacancies available in the EU, while presenting employers with a pool of candidates with the right skills. Small and medium businesses, i.e. companies with up to 250 employees, may apply for financial support to cover part of the cost of training newly-recruited workers and helping them settle in. (Source: European Commission)

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=993>

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1283&furtherNews=yes>

OECD: Eurozone crisis threatens world recovery

The OECD has called on EU leaders to ease the pace of austerity, saying aggressive budget cuts to curtail the eurozone's debts threaten to suck the currency area into a downward spiral that could spill over into the global economy. German-led fiscal austerity policies have so far dominated the European Union's approach to solving Europe's public debt crisis as leaders try to win back investors' confidence. But efforts to reduce deficits have caused the eurozone's economy to stagnate, making it harder to reach EU-mandated targets. The drag on growth was evident in the OECD's forecast for the 17 eurozone, which sees the bloc's economy shrinking 0.1% this year and only growing 0.9% in 2013 - less than half the United

States' projected growth next year. According to OECD calculations, efforts to reduce deficits during a downturn are self-defeating because about one-third of the planned cuts are erased by the contraction in the economy. Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti has won an ally in new French President François Hollande in trying to shift Europe's focus to growth, as well as reining in debts, and Hollande aims to push measures to boost the economy during the next EU summit. (Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/euro-finance/oecd-eurozone-crisis-threatens-world-recovery-news-512879>



Commission consults on climate adaptation strategy

The European Commission's climate department has launched a consultation in preparation for the development of a comprehensive strategy on adaptation to climate change, which is due next year. The consultation closes on 20 August, and follows a 2009 White Paper on adaptation. Most of the measures announced in this paper have now been implemented or are about to be, according to the climate department. Among other things, the consultation seeks views on the key risks of climate change, identifying which population groups are most vulnerable to temperature rises, extreme weather and other hazards. The department also wants to know in which sectors EU action would be the most effective to improve Europe's resilience to climate change. (Source: ENDS)

<http://www.endseurope.com/28852/ec-consults-on-climate-adaptation-strategy?referrer=news>



Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity

Council of Ministers

29 May – General Affairs Council

Ministers are expected to discuss:

- The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the 2014-2020 period
- Preparations for the European Council meeting on 29 June 2012

30-31 May – Competitiveness Council

Ministers are expected to reach conclusions on:

- A programme for the years 2014-2020 designed to improve the competitiveness of enterprises, especially SMEs

Ministers are expected to discuss:

- A proposal for modernising public procurement rules
- The draft agreement for the creation of a unified patent court with a view to finalising the “patent protection package” as soon as possible

31 May - Foreign Affairs Council

Ministers are expected to discuss:

- Green growth
- Future prospects of EU/Japan trade relations
- The EU-US High Level Working Group for growth and jobs
- Key outstanding issues in negotiations for a comprehensive economic trade agreement (CETA) with Canada
- The contribution of trade to the growth agenda.
- Negotiations with India on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- EU-China trade relations

European Parliament (Meeting of Committees – Brussels)

29-30 May – ENVI

Sound level of motor vehicles – Consideration of draft report

29-30 May – INTA

Trade agreement between the EU, Colombia and Peru – Consideration of draft recommendation (consent)

State of Play on International Trade Negotiations – Exchange of views with Director-General, DG Trade
EU-Russia agreement in parts and components of motor vehicles – Vote

EU-Japan trade negotiations – Vote

State of Play of on-going negotiations – Exchange of views

30-31 May – IMCO

Public Procurement – Consideration of draft report

30-31 May – ITRE

Report on the Energy Roadmap 2050 a future with energy – Exchange of views

30 May – TRAN

Joint TRAN-IMCO meeting on eCall – Consideration of amendments

Recording equipment in road transport - Vote