

France and Germany agree to closer EU ties

France and Germany have forged a pact to integrate the eurozone without reopening the EU's treaties, a move with potential implications for David Cameron's plans to renegotiate the Lisbon Treaty. The Franco-German proposal is to be put to an EU summit in Brussels next month (25 June), where Cameron is also to unveil his list of changes needed if he is to win support for keeping Britain in the EU. The Franco-German accord calls for eurozone reforms in four areas 'developed in the framework of the current treaties in the years ahead'. EU members and senior officials in Brussels have repeatedly voiced their reluctance to reopen the Lisbon treaty. The Franco-German initiative, likely to be endorsed by the 25 June summit, would close the door on treaty negotiation. The move from Berlin and Paris came as the UK prime minister prepared to open his negotiations with the French and the Germans on Thursday and Friday. (Source: The Guardian/Le Monde)

http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/may/25/germany-france-eurozone-integration-no-lisbon-treaty-change-david-cameron?CMP=share_btn_tw



ACEA – Commercial vehicle registrations up 12.2%

Commercial vehicle registration figures published this week showed a continued expansion of demand for new commercial vehicles in the EU (+12.2%), totalling 169,746 units. Growth was sustained across all commercial vehicle segments. The UK (+22.8%) and Spain (+18.5%) posted double-digit growth, followed by Italy (+9.0%), Germany (+7.0%) and France (+1.4%), which also saw their demand increase, contributing to the overall expansion. Four months into the year, the EU market expanded by 13.0%, totalling 671,701 commercial vehicles. Over the period, Spain (+35.2%), the UK (+23.9%) Italy (+7.6%) and Germany (+7.1%) all posted growth, while France remained stable (+0.01%).

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/commercial-vehicle-registrations-13.0-over-four-months-12.2-in-april>

EU considering mandatory corporate tax base

The European Commission has said it will reintroduce a previously shelved plan for a common corporate tax system in a bid to clamp down on tax avoidance by multinationals. An 'action plan' against aggressive tax planning will be unveiled on 17 June. It will include a "re-launch" of a 2011 proposal for a law to give companies the option to calculate their taxable profits once for all EU member states. The tax revenues would then be redistributed to the member states where the company is active. The plan, called Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB), never progressed because of opposition from member states.

(Source: EUObserver)

<https://euobserver.com/economic/128849>

European Commission proposes draft Budget 2016

The European Commission proposed its draft 2016 budget of €143.5 billion in payment credits. The budget also includes contributions to the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI). The Commission proposed €2 billion in commitments and €500 million in payments for the guarantee fund of the EFSI, to unlock €315 billion in investment for Europe. €1.67 billion in 2016 will be spent on the Connecting Europe Facility. The Commission proposed €10 billion to be spent on the Horizon 2020 Programme, which is up 11.6% from 2015. €833 million has been proposed for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF), the two main sources of funding for the measures under the EU policy on migration and security. The draft budget will now be sent to the European Parliament and EU Member States who will jointly decide on the final budget.

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5046_en.htm

INTA adopts report on TTIP

The European Parliament's International Trade Committee (INTA) adopted its report on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). MEPs were generally supportive of the fundamental objectives of TTIP, and the outcome of the vote is broadly in line with the already established mandate of EU Member States. Notably, the text calls for a high level of ambition when it comes to tariffs, services, public procurement, and non-tariff barriers. MEPs did not call for investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) to be excluded from TTIP and instead supported a compromise amendment to use the Commission's recent [concept paper](#) as a basis for ISDS negotiations. There were some concerning amendments adopted by the Committee, mainly in the areas of labour standards, public services and origin marking. The Committee voted in favour of calling for the US to ratify the eight core International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions, for public services to be excluded from the scope of TTIP, and for TTIP to be used as an opportunity to move towards common standards for compulsory origin marking of products. The next vote in Plenary is scheduled to take place on 10 June 2015.

(Source: INTA)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/inta/home.html>

Week ahead

Commission

Monday 1 June

- European consumer summit: shaping the consumer policy of the future

Tuesday 2 June

- A Europe of talents: giving new impetus to skills acquisition through mobility for apprentices

Wednesday 3 June

- Access to finance for SMEs and Midcaps in the period 2014 – 2020: opportunities and challenges

Thursday 4 June

- A social agenda for Transport

European Parliament

Monday 1 June

- TAXE – Public Hearing on international dimension of tax rulings and other measures

Thursday 4 June

- IMCO – Towards a thriving date-driven economy; Towards improved Single Market regulation