

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 7 June

### Green Week held in Brussels

Green Week, Europe's largest environment conference has been held in Brussels under the banner "Cleaner Air for All". The event was expected to see some 3,000 participants gather for three days to discuss air-related issues. Issues such as how to safeguard air quality against the backdrop of rising industrial and energy production, the rise in road traffic and urbanisation, the burning of fossil fuels, and climate change were on the agenda. EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik has declared 2013 as the Year of Air, and over the course of the year the Commission's current air policy is being reviewed. Despite good progress in recent years, the Commission has noted that several air quality standards are still widely exceeded in the EU's most densely populated areas, especially from pollutants such as particulate matter, ground-level ozone, and nitrogen dioxide. In the autumn, the review will deliver a revised strategy for EU Air Policy, including new or confirmed objectives for 2020 and beyond, together with a list of key initiatives and instruments to reach them. Commenting on the initiative Commissioner Potočnik stated: "Air pollution is often invisible, but its effects are very real. When air quality is poor we pay a heavy price: citizens' lives are lost, medical costs are high, and working days are lost to illness. Green Week provides an important platform where policymakers, representatives from local communities and NGOs, public authorities and businesses can exchange ideas on how improve the air we breathe – we are constantly open to suggestions on how to improve our current legislation."

(Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-498\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-498_en.htm?locale=en)

### Industrial producer prices down by 0.7% in April

Figures published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, show that in April 2013, compared with March 2013, the industrial producer price index fell by 0.6% in the euro area and by 0.7% in the wider EU. Prices decreased in most of the member states with the largest decreases in the total

index observed in the United Kingdom (-1.5%), Belgium (-1.4%), Greece and the Netherlands. In April 2013 compared with April 2012, industrial producer prices fell by 0.2% in both the euro area and the EU. (Source: Eurostat)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STAT-13-84\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-13-84_en.htm?locale=en)



### Commission President hosts 'industrial renaissance' conference

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso has hosted an 'industrial renaissance' conference in Brussels. The conference examined how national and European efforts can maximize the effectiveness of EU interventions, as well as taking stock of the progress on the Commission's industrial policy initiative. The conference focussed on the need to reverse the current decreasing trend of the evolution of industry in the EU, pointing out the role of manufacturing industry as an engine of growth. The Commission noted that the short-term economic outlook for Europe remained weak despite some signs of economic recovery, emphasising the importance of the manufacturing industry for growth, jobs, productivity, research and exports. The conference discussed the Commission's 'Industrial Compact for Europe' initiative to pave the way for the February 2014 European Council, which will be specifically devoted to industrial competitiveness and policy. (Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-13-505\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-505_en.htm)



## Commission launches waste and recycling consultation

The European Commission has launched a consultation on waste and recycling. Existing EU waste legislation sets targets for re-use and recycling of waste and for reducing landfill, where by 2020, for example, 50% of municipal/household waste and 70 % of construction and demolition waste should be recycled or re-used. The Commission is examining whether, and how, EU waste targets should be adapted to reach objectives, and the consultation will gather views on the desirability of reinforcing the existing targets or introducing new ones. The possibilities include waste prevention targets and differentiated targets for different waste streams, materials and products. Respondents are also asked whether stricter re-use and recycling targets and landfill reduction or diversion targets should be created, and if they should be adapted to the particular situation of each Member State. The implementation of current targets, the improvement of waste statistics and monitoring effectiveness of the measures implemented in Member States are also a focus. (Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-509\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-509_en.htm)

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## Week ahead

### European Commission

13 June

Commission to present 112 eCall facility for cars - The Commission plans to propose to fit new passenger cars and light vehicles from 2015 with the eCall system, which will become mandatory in order to obtain EU-wide type approval.

### Council of Ministers

10 June

Transport, Telecommunications & Energy Council

14 June

Foreign Affairs Council - Trade ministers, meeting within the Foreign Affairs Council, are expected to adopt the negotiating directives for a comprehensive trade and investment agreement between the European Union and the United States of America (the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership).

### European Parliament (Plenary - Strasbourg)

10 June

Short presentation on electronic toll services and vignette system on light private vehicles

12 June

Debate on a broader Transatlantic partnership