

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 15 June

European vehicle producers urge EU to act upon CARS 21 recommendations

European automobile manufacturers have welcomed the main recommendations of the final report by the CARS21 High-level Group but warned that the proposals now need to be executed urgently. The report, produced by a coalition of EU Commissioners, various ministers, automobile industry CEOs, suppliers, trade unions and civil society, lists ways and means of strengthening the future of the automobile industry in Europe, and focuses on improving the competitiveness of the auto industry in a global perspective, by streamlining the EU regulatory framework and better coordinating relevant European policies. The European automotive industry argued that it needs the EU regulatory framework to be supportive in order to sustain and strengthen the sector's position in the fiercely competitive global market place. The European manufacturers are world leaders in low-carbon technologies, road safety solutions and intelligent mobility concepts, and stressed that 'smarter' policies and regulations should reinforce the industry's competitiveness and benefit the European economy as a whole. Sergio Marchionne, President of the industry's trade association ACEA and CEO of FIAT S.p.A, stated: "It is essential that the findings are implemented and real action taken as soon as possible". (Source: ACEA) http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/press_release_vehicle_makers_urge_eu_to_act_upon_cars_21_recommendations

EU countries strike deal on energy efficiency law

Negotiators from the European Parliament, Commission and Council have reached a deal on the Energy Efficiency Directive. The Directive aimed to cut down Europe's energy consumption by 20%, but after negotiations the target will be set at 17%. The new energy efficiency legislation sets out binding measures, which are hoped to go a significant way

towards bridging the current gap the EU is facing with regards to meeting its pledge to reduce energy consumption 20% by 2020. In order to close as much of the gap as possible, Claude Turmes, the Parliament's chief negotiator, has asked the Commission to propose additional measures for transport. These could result in new standards for car fuel efficiency. Under the Commission's initial proposal, energy companies were requested to reduce their energy sales to industrial and household clients by at least 1.5% each year. But member states have obtained that a quarter of the 1.5% annual obligation can be achieved through a series of different measures. This will be broken down in the following way:

- **ETS:** 40% of the efforts that industries already make under the EU Emissions Trading System for carbon dioxide (EU-ETS) will now be accounted for in the yearly obligation.
- **Early action:** Member states will be able to include "early action" in their energy savings goals, allowing them to credit savings measures launched before the EU law comes into force.
- **Future action:** Countries will be able to count not only current, "real" savings, but also "future actions" in their national energy savings schemes.
- **Savings at source:** Countries will also be able to count energy savings made at the source, in the energy transformation sector, before it is distributed to clients. This will account towards a further quarter of the 1.5% obligation.

(Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/energy-efficiency/member-states-strike-deal-eu-ene-news-513301>



EU-Japan trade talks: MEPs fear for EU car market

MEPs have voiced concerns that a free-trade deal in the pipeline with Japan could harm the European car industry. In a resolution adopted by a majority of 517 votes to 74, MEPs told the Council to wait for Parliament's proposals before launching negotiations on the deal – which will have to be approved by Parliament. During the debate with the EU Trade Commissioner, Karel de Gucht, who updated Parliament on the talks about the scope of the possible agreement with Japan, MEPs voiced doubts that Japan was ready to dismantle non-tariff barriers to its public-procurement, pharmaceutical and, in particular, its car market. In the debate MEPs pointed out to their demands last year for a roadmap to deal with non-tariff barriers in Japan and said the Commission's report on the current state of play in the EU-Japan trade talks has failed to allay their concerns. However, they agreed that the opportunity for closer trade links with Japan, the world's third-largest economy, and their potential to help create jobs and growth in Europe should not be missed. (Source: European Parliament)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20120613IPR46762/html/EU-Japan-trade-talks-MEPs-fear-for-EU-car-market>

European new car registrations down 8.7% in May 2012

Figures published by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, show demand for new passenger cars in the EU was down 8.7%, the eighth consecutive month of decline. In total, 1,106,845 new cars were recorded in the region. In May, the major markets faced contractions ranging from 4.8% in Germany to 8.2% in Spain, 14.3% in Italy and 16.2% in France. Only the UK posted growth (+7.9%). Five months into the year, new registrations amounted to 5,442,326 units, or 7.7% less than in the same period last year. From January to May, registrations slightly increased in two of the most significant markets, with Germany stable at +0.3% and the British recording +2.6%. Elsewhere, demand dropped, by 7.3% in Spain, and more severely in France (-17.2%) and Italy (-18.9%). (Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/passenger_cars_registrations_-7.7_over_five_months_-8.7_in_may

Week ahead

European Commission

18-19 June – The EU at the G-20 Summit in Mexico

20-22 June - Rio+20—United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Council of Ministers

21-22 June - Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer's Affairs Council

Ministers are expected to discuss the electromagnetic fields (EMF) directive.

22 June – Economic & Financial Affairs Council

Ministers are expected to discuss:

- Energy taxation.
- Financial Transaction Tax (FTT).

European Parliament (Meeting of Committees – Brussels)

ITRE: 18-19 June

- Horizon 2020 - Joint debate and consideration of draft reports
- Programme for the competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (2014-2020) - Consideration of draft report
- SMEs: Competitiveness and business opportunities - Consideration of amendments.

TRAN: 18-19 June

- Joint TRAN and IMCO meeting on eCall: a new 112 service for citizens - Consideration of compromise amendments and vote to adopt draft report

ENVI: 20-21 June

- Sound level of motor vehicles - Consideration of amendments

INTA: 20-21 June

- State of play of on-going triologue discussions - Exchange of views
- Motion for a resolution on opening negotiations between the EU and Japan - Consideration of draft motion for a resolution