

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 17 June

### May new passenger car registrations in the EU increase by 7.1%

ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers Association, has announced that new passenger car registrations increased by 7.1% in May. A total of 1,208,583 new cars were registered in the EU last month (excluding Cyprus and Malta due to unavailable data). Registrations were up 22% in Germany, 6.1% in France and 3.6% in Italy, while the market fell heavily in Spain, down 23.3%, and contracted slightly in the UK, down 1.7%. These figures bring total registrations this year down 0.8% over the same time-frame in 2010. (Source: ACEA) [http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news\\_detail/passenger\\_cars\\_registrations\\_slip\\_08\\_in\\_january\\_may](http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/passenger_cars_registrations_slip_08_in_january_may)



### Proposed 60% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target for transport is non-binding

European Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas has tried to reassure EU transport ministers that his proposed 60% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target for transport for 2050, is not legally binding. Mr Kallas stated at the latest Transport Council meeting, that "It is a desire,

an objective" in response to transport ministers' concerns. The proposed plan to eliminate petrol-

fuelled cars from city centres by 2050 was also criticised as the EU unnecessarily involving itself in local decisions. The Dutch transport minister stated "I have major concerns about the EU getting involved in urban transport, such as a ban on cars with combustion engines. I think this is important but shouldn't be tackled at a European level". (Source: ENDS)

<http://www.endseurope.com/26520/ec-seeks-to-reassure-states-over-transport-plans>

### European Commission to raise 2030 renewable energy target

The European Commission has confirmed that it will set a new target to raise the share of renewables in the continent's energy mix by 2030. EU Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard stated that the security this would provide to potential investors was "more important than ever" at the launch of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s renewable energies report in Brussels. An actual figure for the target is yet to be decided, but Commissioner Hedegaard has spoken favourably of a legally binding 45% target, a figure that was recommended in a recent report by the European Renewable Energy Council. At present the EU is working towards a legally binding goal for 2020 of reducing its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20% and increasing the share of renewables in the energy mix by the same amount, both measured against 1990 levels.

Commissioner Hedegaard stated "we are on track when it comes to the binding [2020] renewables target but [not] the non-binding energy efficiency target. That indicates how important binding targets are". President of the European Commission, José Manuel Durão Barroso, said "The world is heading towards a point of no return. Our foot is stuck on the accelerator and we need to hit the brakes, and fast. And renewable energy offers us a significant tool in doing so". (Source: EurActive)

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/commission-renews-push-2030-renewables-target-news-505706>

## Warning that Energy Efficiency Directive could "undermine" EU's carbon market

Peter Vis, chief of staff of EU Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard, has warned that the European Commission's draft Energy Efficiency Directive could "undermine" the bloc's carbon market. There are concerns that new efficiency regulations, outlined in the draft Energy Efficiency Directive, would duplicate regulations on industrial sectors already covered by the ETS (EU Emissions Trading Scheme), and as such could depress carbon prices. Mr Vis stated: "We have got two policy approaches knocking up against each other and that isn't helpful.... More than half of those measures [in the draft directive] target the installations covered by the ETS".

(Source: EurActive)

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy-efficiency/brussels-disarray-energy-directive-news-505654>



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## Week ahead

### European Commission

Wednesday 22 June

Energy Efficiency and Savings DG – Energy

- It will outline a series of measures designed to enable the EU to achieve its energy savings target of 20% by 2020. Proposals are expected on refurbishment rates, energy audits and combined heat and power.

### Council of Ministers

Monday 20 June

Economic and Financial Affairs Council

Ministers are expected to adopt conclusions on:

- Country-specific recommendations for the economic policies of the Member States and EU
- The Stability and Growth Pact
- Effective enforcement of budgetary surveillance in the euro area
- The prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances
- Measures to correct excessive macroeconomic imbalances in the euro area
- Requirements for budgetary frameworks of Member States
- Quality management for European statistics
- The EU's code of conduct for business taxation.

Ministers will discuss:

- Over-the-counter derivatives, central counterparties and trade repositories
- A Decision granting an EU guarantee to the European Investment Bank against losses under loans and guarantees for projects outside the EU.

Tuesday 21 June

Environment Council

Ministers are expected to adopt conclusions on:

- The protection of water resources and integrated sustainable water management
- The EU biodiversity strategy to 2020
- A roadmap for moving to a competitive low-carbon economy in 2050.

Ministers will discuss:

- The review of the directive on control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances
- A progress report on proposals to allow Member States to restrict or ban the cultivation of genetically modified organisms in their territory.

### European Parliament (Committees)

TRAN – Monday 20 – Tuesday 21 June

Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – towards a competitive and resource efficiency transport system – exchange of views

INTA – Tuesday 21 June

A New Trade Policy for Europe under the Europe2020 Strategy – vote

ENVI – Tuesday 21 June

An Effective Raw Materials Strategy for Europe - vote