

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 22 June

MEPs agree on mandatory eCall systems in cars

The Internal Market and Transport Committees have jointly adopted a non-legislative resolution in favour of the introduction of a mandatory electronic system of emergency (eCall) to be fitted in all new car models by 2015. The satellite-based electronic notification system automatically transmits a signal to the next emergency centre upon detecting a serious accident, which could save up to 2500 lives a year and reduce the gravity of injuries by 10% to 15%, according to the resolution. While the technology is available and common EU-wide standards have been agreed, member states have yet to upgrade their emergency response service infrastructure to comply with eCall technology. The resolution states regret at the delay in the voluntary deployment of eCall to date and the small proportion of cars fitted with it (only 0.4%). The resolution also stresses that the eCall service cannot be used to monitor a person's movements or determine his or her location unless that person has been involved in an accident, and that the Commission should adopt a legislative proposal requiring Member States to upgrade their emergency response services infrastructure to handle eCalls by 2015. The non-legislative resolution will be voted in plenary in Strasbourg in July and the commission is expected to table a legislative proposal on eCall by the end of 2012. (Source: European Parliament)

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2012/2056\(INI\)&l=en](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2012/2056(INI)&l=en)

EU and US progressing towards trade agreement

The Interim Report of the EU-US High-level Working Group on Jobs and Growth has been released. The Working Group on Jobs and Growth was instituted following the last EU-US summit meeting on 28 November 2011, and was tasked to identify policies and measures to increase bilateral trade and investment, stimulating mutual economic growth. The interim report outlined the benefits of a comprehensive reciprocal market-opening arrangement for agricultural and manufactured goods, services and investment. Specifically, the group

evaluated a broad range of potential options comprising measures for expanding transatlantic trade and investment, eliminating tariffs and barriers to trade, modernising and harmonizing regulatory regimes and standards, and promoting the reduction of "behind-the-border" non-tariff barriers to trade. "Combined with an increasingly productive US-EU cooperation on trade issues of common concern, such an initiative could promote a forward-looking agenda for multilateral trade liberalisation," the report continues. The economic relationship between the US and the EU generates approximately €4 trillion in commercial sales annually, accounting for one-third of global trade. A study by the US Chamber of Commerce states that abolishing tariffs on goods would amplify the trade volume by more than \$120 billion within five years, generating combined GDP gains of about \$180 billion. In a final recommendation to be expected by the end of the year, the High Level Working Group has pledged to work as swiftly as possible in the coming months, in consultation with public and private sector stakeholders, to continue to assay different aspects of a comprehensive transatlantic trade agreement. (Source: European Parliament)

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2012/june/tradoc_149557.pdf



Europeans buying more efficient cars: new car CO₂ emissions drop 3% in 2011

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has published a provisional dataset outlining average CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars registered in

2011. There were 12.8 million cars registered in the EU in 2011, with average CO₂ emissions of 135.7g CO₂/km, a reduction of 3.3% on 2010 figures. 2011 is the last year before the CO₂ targets become binding. The phase-in of the mandatory target of 130g CO₂/km to be met in 2015 will start on the basis of the data for 2012. According to EEA analysis, the 2011 reduction can largely be ascribed to a combination of changes in consumer behaviour, improved technology and engine efficiency. Car manufacturers will now be asked to verify these preliminary figures before they are confirmed by the Commission later this year, ensuring that targets are set on the basis of correct data. (Source: European Environment Agency)

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/new-cars-sold-in-2011>

EUCAR calls for Horizon 2020 budget to be maintained

The European Council for Automotive R&D (EUCAR) has called for the Horizon 2020 scheme to support competitive and sustainable road transport, through a number of priority automotive research and investment initiatives. EUCAR further stated that these initiatives must be aided by a budget commensurate with the economic and social contribution made by the automotive industry in Europe. Rémi Bastien, chairman of EUCAR, delivered the Council's recommendations on Horizon 2020, the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation from 2014 – 2020, to an audience of MEPs and stakeholders at a seminar in the European Parliament. Mr Bastien stressed the importance of the Horizon scheme in supporting competitive and sustainable road transport in Europe, and called for the proposed £80 billion Horizon 2020 budget to be maintained and for the legislation to be finalised as soon as possible. (Source: EUCAR)

http://www.eucar.be/publications/horizon_2020_position



Week ahead

European Commission

26 June – DG Industry & Entrepreneurship Strategy for the better use of Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) by EU industry

Council of Ministers

26 June – General Affairs

Ministers are expected to discuss:

- The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the years 2014-2020.
- The European Council which will take place on 28-29 June.
- The accession of Montenegro to the European Union.

28-29 June – European Council

Ministers are expected to:

- Conclude the first phase of the 2012 European Semester—endorsing the country-specific recommendations prepared by the Commission.
- Take stock of the implementation of the “EU growth agenda” with a particular emphasis on youth unemployment.
- Discuss how the Union can deepen its trade and investment relationships with key partners.
- Discuss the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the years 2014-2020.

European Parliament (Meeting of Committees – Brussels)

No relevant activity