

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 24 June

Poland blocks adoption of low carbon roadmap

Poland has emerged as the sticking point in adoption of the European Commission's low carbon roadmap. References to a possible 25% reduction in CO₂ by 2020 if the EU met energy efficiency targets was opposed by Poland at the latest Environment Council meeting in Brussels. Adoption of the roadmap required all member states to agree, however the draft text presented by the Hungarian presidency of the Council of Ministers was rejected. Poland takes over the presidency in July, with the future of the roadmap uncertain. UK Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Chris Huhne said: "It's a dark day for Europe's leading role in tackling climate change but the UK together with its European colleagues will continue to make the economic case for tighter EU carbon targets so that we can make the most of the future green economy". In the conclusions from the Environment Council ministers: "takes note of the Commission's finding that the 25% domestic reduction by 2020 would be in line with the pathway, consistent with the long-term climate objective". (Source: ENDS/Council of Ministers)

www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/122956.pdf



Future Mobility Now conference attracts young people into automotive

Vehicle manufacturers have hosted an event to bring together the automotive industry and young people to discuss the future of the industry. The conference 'Future Mobility Now' was a social network based initiative aimed at bringing young people into the industry to debate key mobility issues and future challenges. The conference brought together industry leaders, an exhibition of future technologies and intelligent transport systems, policy makers and young people from across Europe. President of ACEA Dieter Zetsche, said at the event: "Many decades ago, young entrepreneurs across Europe such as Carl Benz, the Renault brothers or Ferdinand Porsche advanced an invention that gave people not only individual mobility, but the social and economic mobility that comes with it. That's why it is important today to ask the next generation for their view of the future of mobility and transport and to have them heard by the European policy makers". (Source: ACEA)

www.futuremobilitynow.com

Commission calls for 'green economy roadmap'

The European Commission has published a communication outlining proposals ahead of next year's Rio+20 Earth Summit. The Communication outlines plans for the transition to a low carbon economy, objectives and specific actions around the summits themes. The Rio+20 UN Sustainable Development Conference in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 will also look at better global governance for sustainable development. A consolidated EU position will be submitted to the UN by 1 November 2011 after consultation with the European Parliament, Council, member states and civil society. EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik said: "The sustainable management of resources and natural capital is essential, for countries in all stages of development. – and It can be particular opportunity for developing countries as resources and natural capital are

fundamentally linked to the efforts to eradicate poverty. To make this happen at a global level we have to start putting in place the right market and regulatory conditions globally. Rio+20 can mark the start of a world-wide transition towards a global green economy". (Source: EurActiv/European Commission) www.euractiv.com/en/sustainability/commission-calls-global-green-economy-roadmap-news-505794



Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity.

Council of Ministers

Tuesday 28 June

Competitiveness Council (extraordinary)

Ministers are expected to adopt conclusions on:

- Implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of the creation of unitary patent protection.

European Parliament (Committees - Brussels)

ITRE – Thursday 30 June – Vote on Amendment of Council Regulation No521/2008 setting up the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking