

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 27 June

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### Commercial vehicle registrations see rise in May

New commercial vehicle registrations across Europe continued the positive trend commenced nine months ago, with a rise of 10.8% in May; a total of 151,484 units. The registrations of vans, buses and coaches increased, whereas the truck segment slightly declined. The French market remained stable in May at -0.1%, while all other significant markets recorded double-digit growth ranging from 12.0% in the UK and 13.5% in Italy, to 16.1% in Germany and 41.6% in Spain. From January to May, figures in France decreased by 0.3%, while the UK and Germany saw increases of +8.0% and +8.7% respectively. Italy and Spain saw their markets expand considerably, at +14.6% and +42.9% respectively. Overall, the EU saw registrations increase by 9.1% compared to the first five months of 2013, and in total the region counted 746,678 new vehicles.

#### New light commercial vehicles up to 3.5t

In May, demand for vans in the EU saw an increase of 13.8%, totalling 126,456 new registrations. All major markets expanded, from 3.9% in France to 15.3% in Italy, 17.3% in Germany, 18.4% in the UK and 45.1% in Spain. Five months into the year, the number of new vans registered was 620,951 – a 10.4% increase on the same period last year. Results across markets were contrasted; the French market remained stable at +0.4%, while Germany, the UK and Italy all saw growth of 7.7%, 13.3% and 16.1% respectively. Spain recorded a considerable growth of 44.7%

#### New heavy commercial vehicles over 16t

The number of registrations for heavy trucks decreased by 0.2% in May, with a total of 17,191 new registrations. Markets in Italy, the UK and France shrunk by -3.5%, -17.6% and -30.2% respectively. Germany and Spain, however, posted growth of +22.4% and +32.9% respectively. From January to May, France saw a downturn of -4.8%, and the UK faced a decrease of -28.1%, whereas in Germany, Italy and Spain each market saw an upturn of +19.1%, +19.8% and +41.9% respectively, leading to an overall 7.2% increase of the EU market. 87,822 vehicles were registered in total.

#### New commercial vehicles over 3.5t – trucks

There was a decreased demand for trucks in May, with a 3.6% decrease in registrations, totalling 22,258 units. Market declines were observed in Italy (-3.0%), the UK (-23.8%) and France (-30.3%), while demand in Germany and Spain saw an increase of +13.0% and +15.9% respectively. The truck segment has expanded by 2.9% five months into the year. Italy (+6.0%), Germany (+11.0%) and Spain (+36.8%) all saw increases in the market, whereas France and the UK fared less well with decreases of -6.8% and -27.6% respectively. Overall, the EU counted 112,624 new trucks.

#### New buses and coaches

Demand for new buses and coaches increased by 12.4% in May, totally 2,770 units. Spain, Germany and Italy all posted growth, with +4.8%, +12.1% and +30.8% respectively. From January to May, both Spain and Italy posted a decrease of -1.9%. Growth in other significant markets (+1.2% in France, +4.6% in the UK and +11.1% in Germany) led to an overall 7.0% increase in the whole region. Overall there were 13,103 new buses and coaches registered in the first five months of the year.

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/commercial-vehicle-registrations-9.1-over-five-months-10.8-in-may>

### PM to force vote on Juncker nomination

UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, is to force EU leaders to vote on whether to appoint Jean-Claude Juncker to become the next President of the European Commission. EU leaders met for a summit on Thursday 26 June where they are meant to agree a commission president candidate and a policy programme for the next five years. Sweden, Hungary and the Netherlands remain opposed to Juncker, however they have not indicated how they would vote. Even with their support, however, the Prime Minister would fall short of the blocking minority needed to block Juncker's candidacy. The vote is expected later today.

(Source: EU Observer)

<http://euobserver.com/eu-elections/124718>



## Far-right parties fail to form European Parliament group

French and Dutch far-right parties have failed to form an anti-European Union parliamentary group in the European Parliament. This failure to form a group will be a blow to the parties, as it will cost them extra funding, staffing and speaking time that is unlocked when multinational party alliances are formed. Dutch Freedom Party leader Geert Wilders said that he still hoped to form a parliamentary group later in the year. (Source: Euractiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/eu-elections-2014/dutch-french-far-right-fail-form-european-parliament-group-303009>



## Independent Scotland would face £500 million EU bill

Former UK Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, has told MEPs that an independent Scotland would have to pay an extra £500 million a year to stay in the European Union. As part of the UK, Scottish taxpayer's contribution to the EU budget over the

period of 2014-2020 would be around £8.5 billion. Mr Brown said, "It is estimated that an independent Scotland would contribute a total of around £11 billion to the EU budget over the same seven-year period." These figures amount to a shortfall of £500 million per year. Scotland's four million voters will decide on 18 September whether or not to leave the UK.

(Source: EU Observer)

<http://euobserver.com/news/124767>

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## Week ahead

### European Commission

No relevant activity

### Council of Ministers

Tuesday 1 July

Italy will take over from Greece as holder of the six-month rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

### European Parliament

Tuesday 1 July

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Parliaments

Thursday 3 July

Appointments to committees