

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 1 July

Free Trade Agreement between EU and South Korea to apply from 1 July

The EU-South Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the EU's first trade deal with an Asian country, will apply as of 1 July 2011. South Korea and the EU will eliminate 98.7% of duties in trade value within 5 years from the entry into force of the FTA, according to the European Commission. By the end of the transitional periods, import tariffs will be eliminated on all industrial products, and most agricultural products, with a few exceptions, such as rice. The Commission says the FTA will also create new market access in services and investment and will make major advances in areas such as intellectual property, procurement, competition policy and trade and sustainable development. (Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/811&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

3.7% drop in CO₂ emissions from new cars in Europe

Average emissions from new cars in Europe fell by 3.7% to 140 grams of CO₂ per kilometre last year, according to data published by the European Environment Agency. This is the second largest annual decrease since monitoring began. EU Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard said: "This data shows again that setting targets delivers results and stimulates the car industry to put greener cars on the market. These innovations also ensure that Europe's car industry remains competitive in the changing global market". Car makers have until 2015 to limit emissions from the entire EU fleet to 130g/km under rules adopted in 2009. These findings suggest that this target will be met earlier than the 2015 deadline, as the average CO₂ emissions of cars registered in the EU is now down to 140 grams per km. Car makers have three months to verify the data in the European

Environmental Agency report, at which point final figures will be published. Further analysis conducted by the European Environment Agency shows average CO₂ from new diesel cars was 3.3g/km less than for cars using petrol, compared with a 17 g/km difference a decade ago. Average emissions decreased in all member states except Slovakia, where they were up 1.9% from 2009. Denmark, Portugal and France had the lowest emissions. The largest reductions were seen in Lithuania, Latvia, Greece and Sweden. The data also shows a 2% increase in the average weight of cars after a steady decrease in weight every year since 2007. Source: ENDS)

<http://www.endseurope.com/26609/co2-from-new-cars-drops-37-data-show?referrer=bulletin&DCMP=EMC-ENDS-EUROPE-DAILY>



EU commercial vehicle registrations up 15.8% over 5 months

ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, has announced that commercial vehicle registrations are up 15.8% from January to May this year. With the exception of Spain (-7.4%), all significant markets posted growth, from +12.4% in France to 26.3% in the UK and 28.2% in Germany. For the month of May alone, demand for new commercial vehicles in the EU increased by 25.1%, compared to the same month last year. Again, Spain was the only major market to record a downturn (-

13.3%), while the UK (+17.2%), France (+32.2%) and Germany (+38.4%) all expanded. (Source: ACEA) http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/commercial_vehicles_registrations_up_158_over_5_months

Barroso tables €1trillion budget for EU until 2020

The European Commission has presented proposals for the EU's next seven-year budget (2014-2020). José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, proposed to increase the EU budget from the current €976 billion to €1.025 billion for the next seven-year period, which starts in 2014. This represents a 4.8% increase, which is beyond the average 2% inflation recorded in the last decade. The Commission proposed to reduce national contributions, in line with austerity measures adopted across Europe. In the previous period (2007-2013), each country committed 1.12% of their Gross National Income (GNI) to the EU budget, a contribution that the Commission is proposing to bring down to 1.05%. Barroso stated "We are proposing an ambitious and at the same time responsible budget". (Source: EurActive)

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/priorities/barroso-tables-1trillion-budget-eu-2020-news-506080>

European Commission launches consultation on improving EU air quality policy

The European Commission is launching a public consultation on its current policy on air quality, as part of a comprehensive review of Europe's air policies intended to set new long-term objectives beyond 2020. With up to 49% of Europeans living in areas where EU air quality objectives are still not met, air pollution is one of the main environmental worries facing EU citizens. EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik said: "Looking back at Europe's record in improving air quality, we have much to be proud of. But with 500 000 premature deaths associated with high air pollution from particulate matter, there is clearly much work still to be done. We need to start a discussion on the next generation of air quality objectives straight away". (Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/813&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity.

Council of Ministers

No relevant activity.

European Parliament

No relevant activity.