

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 4 July

Juncker elected as Commission President

Jean-Claude Juncker has been elected by EU leaders as the new European Commission President, despite strong resistance from UK Prime Minister David Cameron. The decision now has to be approved by the European Parliament at its mid-July plenary session. Speaking after the election, the British Prime Minister called the nomination of Juncker “a serious mistake”. He continued to claim that “This is a bad day for Europe. It hands new power to the European Parliament. This whole process has simply reinforced my conviction that the EU has to change”. Leaders will meet on 16 July to discuss the appointments for other top jobs, including the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, as well as the composition of the next Commission.

(Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/eu-elections-2014/eu-leaders-give-thumbs-juncker-britain-isolated-303138>

€25b of finance for SMEs announced

Vice President of the European Commission, Antonio Tajani, has announced that SMEs in Europe will soon have the opportunity to access up to €25 billion of additional finance through the EU Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME programme). The programme will allow financial institutions throughout Europe to provide enhanced access to finance for up to 330,000 SMEs. COSME mobilises loans and equity investments to SMEs in Europe. The COSME programme will fund guarantees and counter-guarantees to financial institutions to help them provide more loans and lease finance mainly up to €150,000 to SMEs. The programme will also invest in equity funds that provide risk capital to SMEs mainly in the expansion and growth-stage. The COSME programme builds on the success of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007-2013) which helped to mobilise

more than €16 of loans and €2.8 billion of venture capital to over 311,000 SMEs in Europe.

(Source: EU Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-753_en.htm



EEF Chief Executive to lead manufacturers in Europe

Terry Scuoler, Chief Executive of EEF, the manufacturers’ organisation, has been appointed as Chair of CEEMET, the body representing manufacturing across Europe. This new placement will help to strengthen the position of British manufacturing in Brussels. CEEMET is comprised of 23 national bodies representing manufacturing across Europe, and together they represent over 200,000 companies employing approximately 35 million people. Through this new role he will lead the organisation in its discussions with officials at the Commission and Parliament over the next three years. Mr Scuoler’s first duty will be to launch CEEMET’s European Roadmap at a reception with

new MEPs. The roadmap sets out far reaching proposals to help promote an industrial renaissance across Europe. It aims to support the EU’s target of raising manufacturing’s contribution to EU GDP from the current 15.1% to 20% by 2020. Specific proposals included within the roadmap focussing on economic growth and high skill job creation include:

- Fit-for-purpose policies, active leadership and concerted efforts by all stakeholders, ensuring that all EU policies which impact upon

manufacturing competitiveness are fully aligned to the 20% objective.

- Access to skills-focused and dynamic labour markets, enabled R&D, innovation and job creation.
- Improved cooperation between policy makers and industry.

Terry Scuoler said, "There is a growing consensus in favour of an industrial renaissance and increased competitiveness across Europe. I hope to support and contribute to future policies that will help deliver this vision."

(Source: CEEMET)

<http://www.ceemet.org/en/News/News/CEEMET-launches-agenda-for-Industrial-Renaissance-across-EU.htm>

Martin Schulz re-elected as European Parliament President

MEPs have elected Martin Schulz as President of the European Parliament for another two and a half year term. Having won 409 out of 612 valid votes cast in the first ballot, Mr Schulz will now lead Parliament until January 2017. He is also the first President in the history of the European Parliament to be re-elected for a second term. Speaking after his election, Mr Schulz commented that MEPs should "demand that people who trade with the EU should respect rule of law, not rule of the strongest." Mr Schulz also thanked MEPs for their confidence in him in re-electing him for another term.

(Source: EU Parliament)

<http://www.elections2014.eu/en/news-room/content/20140630IPR51020/html/Martin-Schulz-re-elected-President-of-the-European-Parliament>



Italy takes over Council of the European Union Presidency

Italy has taken over the six-month rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union, starting on 1 July 2014. The Italian Presidency is the first Presidency in the trio programme of Italy (July - December 2014), Latvia (January – June 2015) and Luxembourg (July – December 2015). The Italian government will form the secretariat for the Presidency and will chair meetings of the European Council and the Council of Ministers. The Strategic Framework of the Presidency will revolve around a job friendly Europe – delivering economic growth, moving Europe closer to its citizens as an area of democracy, rights and freedom, and taking Europe's foreign policy to a higher gear.

(Source: italia2014)

<http://italia2014.eu/en/>

Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity

Council of Ministers

Tuesday 8 July

Ministers will meet in Brussels to discuss the upcoming mid-term review of Europe 2020 for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

European Parliament

Monday 7 July

Parliamentary Committees will meet to elect Chairs and Vice-Chairs.