

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 6 July

European Parliament adopts eCall resolution

The European Parliament has adopted a resolution on eCall; a new 112 service for citizens. The in-vehicle eCall system uses 112 emergency call technology to alert the emergency services automatically to the location of serious road accidents. The goal of this technology is to save lives and reduce the severity of injuries by enabling qualified and equipped paramedics to get to the scene within the first “golden hour” of the accident. The report was adopted in the transport and internal market committees on 19 June. It was presented during plenary on Monday 2 July and voted on Tuesday 3 July. A legislative proposal from the European Commission is expected by the end of 2012. Commenting on the resolution, co-rapporteurs Olga Sehnalova (S&D, CZ) and Dieter-Lebrecht Koch (EPP, DE), stated "The European Parliament has given its clear support for all motorists in Europe to benefit from an emergency call system free of charge. Since the voluntary approach has failed, we urge the Commission to propose legislative measures as soon as possible to ensure the eCall system will be mandatory in all EU countries by 2015".

(Source: European Parliament)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20120703IPR48185/html/Life-saving-emergency-eCall-system-should-be-mandatory-say-MEPs>

Industrial producer prices down 0.7% in EU

Figures provided by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, show that in May 2012, compared with April 2012, the industrial producer price index fell by 0.5% in the euro area and by 0.7% in the wider EU (EU27). In April prices rose by 0.1% in the euro area and remained stable in the EU27. In May 2012 compared with May 2011, industrial producer prices gained 2.3% in the euro area and 2.4% in the EU27. In addition, Eurostat have release unemployment figures for Europe in May 2012. In the euro area, the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 11.1% in May 2012, compared with 11.0% in

April. It was 10.0% in May 2011. The EU27 unemployment rate was 10.3% in May 2012, compared with 10.2% in April. It was 9.5% in May 2011. (Source: Eurostat)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/12/101&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



European Investment Bank lends €350 million to Fiat

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and Fiat Industrial have signed a €350 million loan agreement in support of the group's R&D projects. The loan will finance projects carried out at five of Fiat Industrial's European R&D centres – in Italy (83% of the loan), Germany (8%) and Switzerland (9%). The main aim is to improve the energy efficiency of the company's products and reduce CO₂ emissions. The schemes financed will involve R&D in the following fields:

- powertrain technologies and components meeting the latest emissions standards and their application in industrial, commercial and agricultural vehicles;
- alternative powertrain and fuel technologies for commercial vehicles;
- innovative vehicle architecture based on improved aerodynamics and weight reduction, with a particular focus on safety.

This loan aims to enable Fiat Industrial – which has 51 R&D centres around the world – to give fresh impetus to the design and application of innovative solutions to increase the reliability and performance of its vehicles while meeting the highest sustainability standards.

Such projects are in line with one of the EIB's key financing priorities: the design and application of less polluting and more efficient technologies in the engineering and transport sectors. Commenting on the loan, EIB Vice-President Dario Scannapieco, stated: "At this stage in the global and European economic cycle, investment in innovation is essential to be able to look beyond the crisis and lay the foundations for recovery and the projects financed by this loan reflect the commitment of Fiat Industrial and the European Union's bank to supporting all programmes that combine research with environmental responsibility". (Source: EIB)

<http://www.eib.org/projects/press/2012/2012-094-eib-lends-eur-350-million-to-fiat-industrial-for-europe-wide-projects.htm>

EU study shows that apprenticeships need to be improved

A study undertaken for the European Commission on apprenticeships in EU Member States, has recommended that these schemes should be more responsive to labour market requirements, better adapted to business needs and offer more guarantees in terms of quality and perspectives for young people. The study's results will provide input to the preparation of two Commission initiatives by the end of 2012; a draft Council Recommendation on Youth Guarantees, to ensure that young people are either in employment, education or training within four months of leaving school, and the definition of a Quality Framework for Traineeships. The study on apprenticeships recommends that there should be:

- homogeneous quality standards for apprenticeship-type studies
- a balance between specific occupational skills and general skills and competences
- the involvement of the social partners in the design and organisation of apprenticeships, as this is an essential factor for their success and
- initiatives taken with students to improve the general image of the vocational education system.

Commenting on the studies, European Commissioner of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion László Andor, stated: "Apprenticeships can build bridges for young people to enter the labour market and so help to tackle Europe's excessive levels of youth unemployment. But such apprenticeships must ensure that youngsters are given the best possible chance of

getting a sustainable job afterwards. We also support this through more targeted use of the European Social Fund". (Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/731&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Week ahead

European Commission

DG Research Innovation & Science

€8 billion call for research and innovation projects

Council of Ministers

7-8 July, Environment Council (informal)

Presentation of the Cyprus presidency priorities

Items for next Formal meeting maybe discussed.

- Waste of batteries
- CO2 from vans 2020 targets

10-13 July, Employment & Social, Health & Consumer Affairs Council (informal)

Items for next Formal meeting maybe discussed.

- European Social Fund (ESF) / Structural funds
- Youth employment
- Employment situation in Europe
- Electromagnetic fields Directive

European Parliament (Brussels)

9 July

ENVI – accounting rules and action plans on GHG emissions and LULUCF – consideration of draft report

10 July

TRAN – presentation of TEN-T project selection in call 2011 by European Commission

ENVI – Energy Roadmap 2050 – consideration of draft opinion

11 July

INTA – state of play of ongoing trilogue negotiations – exchange of views

INTA – presentation by Cypriot Minister for Industry on international trade

INTA – presentation of study "Russia's accession to WTO"

INTA – Karel De Gucht, Commission for Trade on EU-US working group on jobs and growth

INTA – EU Trade negotiations with Japan

INTA – Financing EU SME's trade and investment