

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 8 July

European Parliament rejects increase in EU 2020 CO₂ emissions reduction target

The European Parliament has rejected a draft resolution on increasing the EU 2020 CO₂ emissions reduction target from 20% to 30% on 1990 levels, after the resolution was weakened by an amendment. The vote saw a majority of 347-258 against the proposal, with 63 abstentions. EU Climate Action Commissioner, Connie Hedegaard stated: "While there is still a discussion within the European Parliament about when to move to a 30% reduction, the vote showed that there is a very large majority which supports the idea of going beyond 20% by the EU delivering its own energy-efficiency target". (Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-environment/lobby-fury-meps-trash-co2-emissions-cut-news-506307>



Poland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Poland has taken over the running of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, from 1 July 2011 to 31 December 2011. This is the first time that Poland have held this responsibility. In its presidency programme Poland has outlined three strategic

priorities for their term of office. These are European Integration as a Source of Growth, Secure Europe, and Europe Benefitting from Openness. Polish secretary of state for European affairs and economic policy, Mikołaj Dowgielewicz, stated that the role of the presidency is seen by many as a "maturity test" for Poles in Europe. (Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/future-eu/polish-eu-presidency-vows-rescue-european-project-news-506228>

European Commission launches air quality policy consultation

The European Commission has launched a consultation on air quality policy. The review will look at EU policy intended to set long term objectives for air quality post-2020, with views sought on the existing legislative framework and progress on its implementation. 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://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/air_en.htm

EU road fatalities fall by 11% in 2010

The European Commission has published new statistics showing that EU road fatalities decreased by 11% in 2010. However, country by country statistics show that the number of deaths still varies greatly across the EU. Most countries achieved double-digit reductions in the number of road deaths over the past year, with the biggest reductions being in Luxembourg (33%), Malta (29%) Sweden (26%) and Slovakia

(26%). Siim Kallas, European Commission Vice-President for Transport, said: "It is very encouraging that nearly all Member States have managed to significantly reduce their number of road deaths, but there is no room for complacency. A hundred people still die on Europe's roads every day. We have made good progress since 2001 and we have succeeded in saving nearly 100,000 lives. But the number of fatalities and injuries on our roads is still unacceptable. We want to cut the number deaths by half by 2020. For this we will be looking at what kind of cars people drive, where they drive and how they drive". (Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/830&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



Polk data shows worldwide new registrations up 4% in May over the year before

Figures released by Polk this week show new car registrations worldwide up about 4% in May over the year before. The strongest growth came in Eastern Europe, where demand was up 33%, driven by the positive trend in Russia. New registrations in Russia were up 46% over the year before as a result of the stabilising economy and the continuing strong success of the scrappage scheme, which has been extended once again and which will have a positive impact on new registrations in Russia through autumn. The Asia/Pacific region was down once again, as new registrations in this region fell by almost 4% according to preliminary data. The main reason for this decline being the situation in Japan, where new registrations were down 33% from the year before. China was also down by almost 2% as a result of strong anticipated sales at the end of last year, as well as the fact that the government incentives have now expired. The NAFTA region once again posted results which were better than the year before in May, with new registrations up by 2.5%. New registrations in Latin America were up 19% from the year before, coming after a steep loss two months ago, as the Brazilian passenger vehicle market grew by 15%. New registrations in Western Europe were up almost 8% from the year before, an increase which was primarily attributable to the fact that May 2011 had more workdays than May 2010. (Source: SMMT) <https://www.smmt.co.uk/members-lounge/member-services/market-intelligence/vehicle-data/>

Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity.

Council of Ministers

No relevant activity.

European Parliament

TRAN – 11-12 July – Exchange of views with the Polish Presidency, transport

ENVI – 13-14 July - Exchange of views with the Polish Presidency, environment