



ACEA revises forecast for 2015 car sales to 5%

The European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) has revised its forecast for car registrations for the full year to 5%. This is to take into account that that over the first five months of 2015 the year-on-year growth was 6.8%. In terms of units, this would mean surpassing the 13 million cars mark this year, however, this is still well below the 2007 peak of almost 16 million cars. (Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/european-automobile-association-revises-forecast-for-2015-car-sales-to-5>

Automotive and petroleum refining industry: open letter on diesel to EU policy makers

In an [open letter](#) to EU policy makers, leading representatives of the automotive and petroleum refining industry in Europe committed to keep pushing the technical boundaries in order to find ever better ways of combining the customer benefits of diesel – in terms of fuel economy and low CO₂ – with continuously reduced emissions. The letter from the President of the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), the Association for Emissions Control by Catalyst (AECC), the European Association of Automotive Suppliers (CLEPA) and FuelsEurope, representing the European Petroleum Refining Industry, was sent to representative of the European Commission, European Parliament and Council. Pointing out, that political measures restricting the rollout of the new generation of diesel technology would undermine existing efforts to cut CO₂ emissions, the associations called on policy makers to help accelerate fleet renewal and the introduction of the cleanest vehicles. (Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/automotive-and-petroleum-refining-industry-open-letter-on-diesel-to-eu-poli>

TTIP: EP vote paves way for new ISDS

The European Parliament has adopted its recommendations to the Commission on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The vote had originally been scheduled for June's plenary session, but was postponed by Parliament President Martin Schulz. MEPs were split over provisions in the report for a form of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism. Parliament has called for a mechanism which would be "subject to democratic principle and scrutiny" and where cases would be dealt with by "publicly appointed, independent professional judges [in] public hearings". There had previously been fears that ISDS would rely on private arbitration, giving corporations too much power over national governments. MEPs have also recommended high levels of protection for EU consumer data and health and safety standards, and have asked that public services be excluded from the deal. They have also suggested there should be special treatment for sensitive agricultural and industrial products. Additionally, deputies have stressed that in areas where EU and US rules diverge too much, there can be "no agreement" - cloning, authorising chemicals and GMOs for example. The next round of TTIP negotiations takes place next week in Brussels. (Source: The Parliament)

<https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/articles/news/tip-eu-parliament-vote-paves-way-new-isds>



Greek debt crisis: Greece submits reform plan

Greece has submitted new reform proposals aimed at securing a third bailout from its international creditors. The measures put forward by the Greek government include tax rises, pension reforms and spending cuts - which were rejected by the country's voters in a referendum last Sunday. For the third bailout, Greece is reportedly seeking €53.5bn and a restructuring of its huge debt burden. According to media reports, the measures submitted include:

- tax rise on shipping companies
- unifying VAT rates at standard 23%, including restaurants and catering
- phasing out solidarity grant for pensioners by 2019
- €300m (\$332m; £216m) defence spending cuts by 2016
- privatisation of ports and sell-off of remaining shares in telecoms giant OTE
- scrapping 30% tax break for wealthiest islands

The plans will be discussed at technical level on Friday, before a meeting of eurozone finance ministers in Brussels on Saturday. There will then be a meeting of Eurogroup leaders on Sunday afternoon and a full EU summit two hours later. (Source: BBC) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-33473779>

Climate: EP backs reform of carbon market

The European Parliament approved plans to overhaul the Europe Union's carbon market, a key part of strategies to curb the EU's global-warming emissions. Under reforms due to take effect in 2019, the Emissions Trading System (ETS) will set aside a portion of carbon credits if the surplus of emission allowances on the market exceeds a certain threshold. The reserve will then be put back onto the market if prices recover. The law was approved by 495 votes to 158, with 49 abstentions. The plan got the green light in May from the EU's executive Commission and member states. The Commission had wanted the change to be introduced in 2021. (Source: EU Business)

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/climate-warming.1334>

Week ahead

European Commission

Monday 13 – Friday 17 July

- 10th round of TTIP negotiations

European Council

Sunday 12 July

- EU heads of State and Government will convene in Brussels to discuss the latest situation regarding Greece

Tuesday 14 July

- Economic and Financial Affairs Council – The Luxembourg Presidency will present its priorities to the Council

European Parliament

Monday 13 – Tuesday 14 July

- INTA – Exchange of views with Commissioner for Trade on the Future Trade Strategy; Accession of Ecuador to the Trade Agreement between the EU and Columbia and Peru
- TRAN – Luxembourg Minister for Transport on the priorities of the Luxembourgish Presidency

Wednesday 15 – Thursday 16 July

- ENVI – Towards a new international climate agreement in Paris
- ITRE – Towards and Energy Union; Commission Communication: “A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe”
- IMCO – Electronic single market for electronic communications and to achieve a Connected Continent: update on trilogies; Briefing notes on TTIP: Motor Vehicles and Engineering

