

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 11 July

### UK MEP chosen as chairman for IMCO committee

UK Conservative MEP Vicky Ford has been confirmed as the new Chairman of the European Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) Committee. Mrs Ford was put forward for the role after the parliament's third largest group, the European Conservatives and Reformists Group, successfully negotiated the right to nominate the holder of this high-profile economic portfolio. Mrs Ford will replace another British Conservative, Malcolm Harbour, who chaired the committee in the last parliament before standing down at the European elections in May. The committee has charge of the European Single Market and has a mission to identify and remove restrictions to trade and commerce in Europe. It also has responsibility to advance consumer protection in all sectors except health and foodstuffs. Other key committee chairs for the automotive sector are:

- ENVI – Giovanni La Via (EPP, Italy)
- ITRE – Jerzy Buzek (EPP, Poland)
- TRAN – Michael Cramer (Greens/EFA, Germany)
- INTA – Bernd Lange (S&D, Germany)

(Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/files/infographic-who-who-european-parliament-0>

### €1billion boost for EU-industry partnership projects

Research partnerships between the EU, member states and the private sector have presented their first calls for projects and partners under Horizon 2020, the EU's €80billion research and innovation programme. A total of €1.3billion in public funding, which will be completed by a comparable amount from private partners, will go into projects that will improve people's lives as well as boost the international competitiveness of Europe's industry. Topics include a roll out of dozens of hydrogen-powered road vehicles and refuelling stations, and new treatments for diabetes and eye disease. The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, said,

"Only if the best brains from academia, industry, SMEs, research institutions and other organisations come together can we successfully tackle the huge challenges we are facing." The launch of first calls comes a year after the European Commission put forward the Innovation Investment Package, a set of proposals to establish seven public-private and four public-public partnerships. The competitive calls are open to the participation of companies, SMEs, universities, research organisations and others, and the best projects will be selected for funding through peer review.

(Source: EU Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-14-753\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-753_en.htm)



### Juncker wants 'fair deal' for Britain

Jean-Claude Juncker, future EU Commission President, has claimed that he wants a "fair deal" for Britain on the terms of its EU membership. Whilst speaking to the British Conservative-dominated ECR group in the European Parliament, Juncker said that he is in favour of a "practical arrangement" with the UK that takes their demands into account. Juncker has reportedly also announced that he will not fight attempts to repatriate powers to Westminster from Brussels, claiming that he does not want a European Union without Britain.

(Source: EU Observer)

<http://euobserver.com/political/124904>

## Juncker calls for more women in new Commission team

The future President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, has urged national governments to appoint more women in his new team of commissioners, promising to reward those that do with a vice-presidency or a big portfolio. Juncker will begin negotiations on the distribution of portfolios with governments after the European Parliament confirms him in a vote on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July. So far, only a handful of governments have announced their nominees to take the Brussels post, and all are men. Although there are a few women's names circulating, none have yet been confirmed.

(Source: Euractiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/eu-priorities-2020/juncker-wants-more-women-new-commission-team-303388>



## UK to miss 2030 air quality targets

According to the UK government the air quality in some of the UK's biggest cities is unlikely to meet EU standards before 2030. Member states were supposed to meet targets on pollutants from diesel cars and trucks by 2010, but the European Court of Justice has heard that London, Leeds and Birmingham could still be above these goals in 2030. The court has been hearing evidence in a civil case brought by air quality activists, Client Earth. A decision in this case is expected to be reached before the end of the year. This will then come back to the UK Supreme Court in 2015 for the final judgement.

(Source: BBC News)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-28255246>

## Week ahead

### European Commission

Monday 14 – Friday 18 July: 6<sup>th</sup> round of Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

### Council of Ministers

Wednesday 16 July

Extraordinary meeting of the European Council: EU leaders will meet in Brussels to discuss nominations for the positions President of the European Council and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

### European Parliament

Tuesday 15 July

- Parliament is set to vote on the appointment of Jean-Claude Juncker as European Commission President
- EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht will brief the new Parliament on progress in Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) talks with the USA.