

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 13 July

Commission publishes 2020 CO₂ vehicle emission reductions proposal

The European Commission has published proposals for CO₂ emissions reductions from new cars and light commercial vehicles (vans) by 2020. The proposals will cut average emissions from new cars to 95 grams of CO₂ per km (g CO₂/km) in 2020 from 135.7g in 2011 and a mandatory target of 130g in 2015. Emissions from vans will be reduced to 147g CO₂/km in 2020 from 181.4g in 2010 (the latest year for which figures are available) and a mandatory target of 175g in 2017. The mandatory targets for 2020 are already envisaged in existing legislation but require implementation. Following thorough technical and economic analysis by the Commission, the Regulations proposed establish the modalities by which the targets would be achieved. Commenting on the proposal, ACEA Secretary General, Ivan Hodac, stated: "It is clear that CO₂ levels from vehicles have to continue on their downward trend and the industry is committed to deliver on this. However, the proposal to reach a fleet-average target of 95 gCO₂/km for cars and 147 gCO₂/km for vans by 2020 will remain extremely challenging". (Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/771&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Commission announces €8.1 billion investment in research and innovation

The European Commission announced the final and largest ever set of calls for proposals for research under its Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). In total, €8.1 billion will be allocated to fund projects and ideas that will enhance Europe's competitiveness. The funding, which is open to organisations and businesses in all EU member states and partner countries, constitutes the majority of the EU's proposed €10.8 billion research budget for 2013. The calls targets both innovation and a range of societal

challenges, building a bridge to Horizon 2020, the next funding programme for EU research from 2014-2020. Altogether €4.8 billion will be allotted to thematic research priorities: Industrial innovation will be supported through close-to-market activities such as piloting, demonstration, standardisation, and transfer of technologies. Particular attention will be accorded to SMEs in a package worth up to €1.2 billion. Another €2.7 billion is provided to cement Europe's place as a world class destination for researcher. European Research, Innovation and Science Commissioner, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn stated: "Knowledge is the currency of the global economy. If Europe wants to continue to compete in the 21st century, we must support the research and innovation that will generate growth and jobs, now and in the future." The overall funding is expected to leverage an additional €6 billion of public and private investment in research, and estimated to increase employment by 210,000 in the short-term and generate, over a 15 year period, an additional €75 billion in growth. (Source: European Commission) <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/752&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



Commission innovation partnership for Smart Cities and Communities launched

The European Commission has launched the Smart Cities and Communities European Innovation Partnership (SCC). The partnership aims to boost the

development of smart technologies in cities – by pooling research resources from energy, transport and ICT and concentrating them on a small number of demonstration projects which will be implemented in partnership with cities. For 2013 alone, €365 million in EU funds have been earmarked for the demonstration of these types of urban technology solutions.

Commenting on the scheme, Vice-President Siim Kallas, Commissioner for Transport, stated:

"Transport is the lifeblood of every city for people and business. But Europe's cities suffer most from road accidents, congestion, poor air quality and noise. We need to drive forwards the research and innovation that can bring us to our goals of CO₂ free cities, phasing out conventionally fuelled cars from city centres, to smart charging of electric vehicles and smokeless silent buses". (Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/760&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

European industrial production up 0.5% in May

Figures published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, show that In May 2012 compared with April 2012, seasonally adjusted industrial production grew by 0.6% in the euro area and by 0.5% in the EU. In April production decreased by 1.1% and 0.7% respectively. In May 2012 compared with May 2011, industrial production dropped by 2.8% in the euro area and by 2.3% in the EU. (Source: Eurostat)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/12/106&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



Week ahead

European Commission

17 July – Proposals on completing a single market for innovation

Council of Ministers

16/17 July - Informal Meeting of Ministers for Transport and Telecoms

18/19 July – Informal Competitiveness Council (Industry)

20 July – Informal Competitiveness Council (Research)

European Parliament (Constituency Week)

No relevant activity – Parliament will be in recess until 3 September 2012.