

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 15 July

Europe “falling behind” in green investment race

New research published this week shows that Europe is in danger of falling behind in the green investment race, after a bumper year for renewable energy around the world. Last year, green investment surged by one-third to a record \$211bn (£132bn), with a huge boost coming from investment in China, where almost \$50bn of the global total came from, an increase of more than one-quarter on 2009. Growth was also strong in other parts of the developing world, including India and Latin America. By contrast, in Europe, financial sector investment dropped by one-fifth to \$35bn. Connie Hedegaard, Europe's climate chief, has called for a much greater proportion of the EU's budget to be devoted to climate-related spending, which would help Europe retain some of its edge in the rapidly growing green economy. Hedegaard called for at least 20% of the EU's budget to be spent on climate-related issues in future, to foster green technology, help cut emissions and help deal with the damaging effects of climate change. She stated: "This significant increase reflects that it is a key political priority for Europe to tackle climate change by transforming Europe into a clean, competitive low-carbon economy. But it also marks a paradigm shift". (Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-environment/europe-falling-green-investment-race-news-506410>



EU new car registrations down 2.1% in first half of 2011

ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, has announced that EU new car registrations over the first six months of 2011, numbered 7,120,499, 2.1% less than in the first half of last year. In June, new car registrations dropped by 8.1% in the EU, amounting to 1,233,298 units, with all key markets facing a downturn. Contractions ranged from -0.3% in Germany to -1.7% in Italy, -6.2% in the UK, -12.6% in France and -31.4% in Spain. (Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/passenger_cars_registrations_down_2.1_in_first_semester_2011

Member States agree “early auction” for phase 3 of the Emissions Trading System

EU Member States have agreed to the European Commission's proposal to auction 120 million emission allowances for phase 3 of the Emissions Trading System in 2012, the year before phase 3 starts. Meeting in the EU Climate Change Committee, Member States also made substantial progress towards finalising two draft Agreements concerning procurement procedures for the single auction monitor and the common auction platform. This progress puts the Commission and the Member States on track to start these auctions in the second half of 2012. The holding of auctions ahead of the start of phase 3 - so-called "early auctions" - is foreseen in the revised Emissions Trading Directive adopted in 2009. The Commission will now submit the agreed text to the Council and the European Parliament for scrutiny. Providing no objections are received within three months, the Commission will adopt the proposed amendment. The two Joint Procurement Agreements set out how Member States and the Commission will jointly conduct procurement procedures in view of the

appointment of the common auction platform that will be used by 24 Member States and the single auction monitor that will monitor the auctions conducted on all auction platforms. (Source: European Commission) <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/500&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



Deputy chair of environment committee strongly opposes 30% emissions target

Boguslaw Sonik, deputy chair of the European Parliament's environment committee, has this week told a hearing in parliament that he is strongly opposed to increasing a target to cut CO₂ emissions from 20 to 30%. Speaking at an event on the role the plastic industry can play in meeting the EU's climate goals, Sonik stated: "This would be detrimental to industry in Poland and the rest of Europe. This is the last thing the business community needs at the current time". This statement follows recent accusations by green campaigners and MEPs of climate change "denial" by Janusz Lewandowski, the EU budget commissioner, after he questioned the science of global warming. Poland is reliant on coal-

fired power stations for up to 90% of its electricity and Warsaw last week blocked an EU attempt to increase a target to cut CO₂ emissions from 20 to 30%. (Source: theParliament) <http://www.theparliament.com/latest-news/article/newsarticle/leading-mep-clashes-with-commission-over-co2-emissions-target/>

New version of REACH guidelines for the automotive industry published

The automotive Task Force on REACH this week published Version 3 of the Automotive Industry Guideline on REACH, a more comprehensive overview, providing automotive industry recommendations on numerous aspects of the REACH Regulation. The Task Force, which is formed of representatives of all the major vehicle manufacturers and the automotive supply chain, recommended a common schedule and external communication strategy which will harmonise the sector's response to REACH and avoid duplication and confusion by taking into consideration the automotive industry's specific criteria and tools. (Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/new_version_of_the_automotive_industry_guideline_on_reach_published

Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity.

Council of Ministers

No relevant activity.

European Parliament

Constituency week

