

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 18 July

### New passenger car registrations up in first half-year

Figures published by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers Association show that new passenger car registrations were up by 4.5% in June 2014, continuing the upward trend that began ten months ago. However, new registrations represented a total of 1,189,143 units, which is the second lowest level reached in a month of June since ACEA began the series in 2003. For the first six months of the year, demand for new passenger car registrations totalled 6,622,996 units, or 6.5% more than the first six months of 2013. Germany was the only major market to shrink in June, down by 1.9%. Elsewhere, growth ranged from 2.5% in France, 3.8% in Italy, 6.2% in the UK and 23.9% in Spain, leading to a 4.5% upturn in the region. For the first six months of the year, growth prevailed across the major markets, reaching 2.4% in Germany, 2.9% in France, 3.3% in Italy, 10.6% in the UK and 17.8% in Spain. Overall, demand for new cars increased by 6.5% in the EU compared to the same period of 2013.

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/passenger-car-registrations-6.5-in-first-half-year-4.5-in-june>

### Council appoints new commissioners

The Council of the European Union has appointed four new Commissioners, who will serve in their posts until 31 October – these temporary Commissioners will take the place of previous Commissioners who were elected as MEPs. The decision was taken by written procedure and was in common accord with the President of the Commission. The new appointments are:

- Mr Jyrki Katainen (Finland) replacing Mr Olli Rehn and responsible for economic and monetary affairs and the euro

- Mr Jacek Dominik (Poland) replacing Mr Janusz Lewandowski, responsible for financial programming and the budget
- Mr Fernando Nelli Feroci (Italy) replacing Mr Antonio Tajani, responsible for industry and entrepreneurship
- Ms Martine Reicherts (Luxembourg) replacing Ms Viviane Reding, responsible for justice, fundamental rights and citizenship.

The UK Prime Minister has also made his nomination for the UK European Commissioner, choosing Lord Hill of Oareford. Finally, the European Parliament voted in its plenary session on the election of the new European Commission President. Jean-Claude Juncker was elected by 422 votes in favour, 250 votes against and 57 abstentions/disqualified.

(Source: Council of the European Union)

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/144020.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/144020.pdf)



### UK calls for changes to 'cap and trade' emissions system

The UK is calling for major reforms to improve the emissions 'cap and trade' system which was put in place in 2005 by the European Union to help tackle climate change. The EU Emission Trading System (ETS) gives companies from heavy industries and the power sector flexibility to decide whether to invest in carbon abatement or to purchase emission allowances to comply. Currently, however, the market has a surplus of over 2 billion allowances, meaning it is not stimulating the low-carbon investment needed to meet long-term targets. This is due to various

factors such as the economic downturn and an insufficiently ambitious target for 2020. The reform measures recommended by UK government are needed to strengthen the ETS so that it helps businesses to deliver future emissions reductions cost-effectively, fosters investment in innovative low-carbon technologies, and protects the competitiveness of UK industries in the transition to a global low-carbon economy. The key reforms include:

- Cancellation of surplus allowances before 2020 to help restore the balance between supply and demand, and put the system back on track.
- Revision of free allowances provisions – UK government believes that the system, crucial for certain businesses to stay competitive during the transition to a global low-carbon economy, must continue to protect those who need support most to adjust over the long term.
- Cutting unnecessary red tape to strike a better balance between fairness, cost efficiency and simplicity.

(Source: DECC)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/329841/EU\\_ETS\\_vision\\_for\\_phase\\_IV\\_final\\_version.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/329841/EU_ETS_vision_for_phase_IV_final_version.pdf)

---

## TTIP survey for SMEs launched

The European Commission is launching an online survey for SMEs in the context of the TTIP negotiations to collect information regarding the trade barriers European industries and individual companies currently face when doing business with the US. The deadline for the survey is 15 December 2014.

(Source: EU Commission)

<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=TTIPSME&lang=en>



## Week ahead

### European Commission

Wednesday 23 July

Communication on energy efficiency: the Communication consists of an analysis of the EU's progress towards its 2020 energy efficiency target and an energy efficiency framework.

### Council of Ministers

Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 July

Informal meeting of the Industry and Research Ministers: Key items on the agenda include a discussion on future research infrastructures and available resources and a debate on the sectoral aspect of industrial competitiveness.

Wednesday 23 July

General Affairs Council: EU ministers will meet in Brussels where the Italian Presidency will present its work programme for the next 6 months.

### European Parliament

Tuesday 22 July

TRAN Committee Meeting: Appointment of rapporteurs; priorities of the Italian Presidency in the area of transport.

ITRE Committee Meeting: Communication on the European Energy Security Strategy; Briefing by the European Commission on TTIP negotiations.

IMCO Committee Meeting

INTA Committee Meeting: Exchange of views with Karel de Gucht, Commissioner for Trade, on the state of play of EU Trade Policy