

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 27 July

### Commission prepares for change in timing for auctions of emission allowances

Following the European Commission's review of the auction time profile of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS), initiated in mid-April, the Commission has proposed a Decision to clarify the provisions of the EU ETS Directive on the timing of auctions of emission allowances. Commenting on the announcement, Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard stated: "The EU ETS has a growing surplus of allowances built up over the last few years. It is not wise to deliberately continue to flood a market that is already oversupplied. This is why the Commission today has paved the way for changing the timing of when allowances are auctioned. This short-term measure will improve the functioning of the market. If the political will is there, all the necessary decisions can be taken before the next auctioning phase starts at the beginning of 2013. Now it is up to the European Parliament and Member States to deliver. After the summer recess, the Commission will also finalise the options for long-term structural measures". The Commission has also suggested the backloading of up to a billion EU carbon allowances (EUAs), in an aim to push up the CO<sub>2</sub> price in the third phase of the emissions trading scheme, and has launched a consultation on how many EUAs should be set aside in the first three years of phase three. (Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/850&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### European commercial vehicle registrations down 5.8% in June

Figures published by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, show that in June 2012 new commercial vehicle registrations dropped for the fifth consecutive month, falling by 5.8% compared to June last year, as a total of 157,232 units were recorded in the EU. Italy (-29.8%) and Spain (-28.7%)

faced a double-digit downturn, while France (-0.8%) and the UK (+0.2%) remained relatively stable. Germany was the only major market to post growth (+8.8%). From January to June, demand was down 10.8%, compared to the first half-year of 2011, amounting to 892,850 units. Decline prevailed in all major markets, from -1.9% in Germany to -5.1% in the UK, -7.2% in France, -25.5% in Spain and -37% in Italy. (Source:ACEA)

### 4<sup>th</sup> European Road Safety Day focuses on young people

The 4<sup>th</sup> European Road Safety Day, held in Cyprus on Wednesday 25 July, has focused on young people, with figures showing that 19% of road fatalities in the EU in 2012 affected people between the age of 18-25 despite this age group comprising just 10% of the total population. The Road Safety Day was marked by a conference bringing together youth groups, road safety organisations and road safety officials from all EU Member States, as well as from neighbouring countries for a day of discussions, presentations and workshop. Speaking at the conference, Vice President Siim Kallas responsible for Transport stated: "The tragic loss of young lives on European roads is unacceptable. I am most concerned by accidents due to drugs or alcohol, especially among young men and women. I am optimistic that we can advance towards our 'vision zero' for EU road safety, as we made good progress in the last 10 years. Nevertheless, there is still a long way to go. Only by changing young people's driving mentality can we continue to save lives". (Source: European Commission)

### Week ahead

#### European Commission

No relevant activity

#### Council of Ministers

No relevant activity

#### European Parliament

Parliament will be in recess until 3 September 2012.