

ACEA – Commercial vehicle registrations +12.9% in first semester 2015

Figures released by the European Automobile Manufacturers Association this week show demand for new commercial vehicles in the EU increased (+18.6%) for the sixth consecutive month, totalling 197,203 units in June 2015. Growth was sustained across all commercial vehicle segments and in all major markets, with Germany (+9.4%), Italy (+12.5%), France (+12.9%), the UK (+18.5%) and Spain (+49.7%) posting growth. In the first semester of 2015, the EU market expanded (+12.9%), totalling 1,030,140 commercial vehicles. During the same period, Spain (+36.8%), the UK (+21.8%), Italy (+8.6%), Germany (+4.6%) and France (+1.6%) all posted growth.

(Source: [ACEA](#))

Greece crisis – Greek PM may call early election

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said he may have to call an early election to bolster a parliamentary majority that has been strained by bailout reforms demanded by creditors. About three dozen of his 149 lawmakers have refused to back reforms agreed by PM Tsipras at a European summit on July 13, forcing him to rely on opposition support to push through the legislation in exchange for a third bailout. Several ministers have suggested that an election could be held in the autumn, most likely after final talks on the multi-billion euro bailout programme are wrapped up. EU/IMF envoys started bailout talks with the Greek government in Athens this week. They may demand additional reform measures to be legislated in August before releasing any further loans. Mr Tsipras said he would not implement anything beyond what was agreed in Brussels earlier this month.

(Source: [Euractiv](#))

German Finance Minister suggests changes to European Commission responsibilities

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble would like the competition and single market departments removed from the European Commission, according to reports from Germany's Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper. The newspaper reports that Mr Schäuble believes the Commission can no longer combine its role as 'guardian' of the EU treaties – including anti-trust and internal market rules – with its increasingly political role. According to FAZ, Mr Schäuble is not against the Commission having a more political role in EU governance but a trade-off needs to be made in setting up separate technical bodies that deal with competition and internal market issues. The Netherlands is expected to make the issue one of its focal points during its EU presidency in the first half of next year.

(Source: [EU Observer](#))

Further EU referendum negotiations to take place with EU leaders

UK Prime Minister David Cameron will hold further face-to-face talks with Angela Merkel and other European leaders on the eve of Conservative Party conference in October amid suggestions government is preparing for an early referendum. It is expected that an early deal with Europe will be sought and a package could be agreed by the end of the year. The Prime Minister is believed to be preparing a more detailed set of proposals for the second wave of meetings with heads of states and governments. David Cameron is expected to set out his plans at the European Council summit in December. Chancellor George Osborne visited Paris as part of his role in the negotiations and said that the EU should return to the concept of a "single market of free trade" following the renegotiation of the UK's membership.

(Source: [The Telegraph](#))

House of Lords EU committee report on renegotiation published

The House of Lords EU Committee has published a report on the UK's referendum on EU membership. The report concludes that a referendum should be held as soon as possible, suggesting it takes place before the end of 2016 "in order to minimise uncertainty for citizens, financial markets, businesses and other stakeholders in the UK and across the EU". The report noted that government should explain the negotiating process in greater detail and that Parliament should not be presented with a fait accompli, which would "give rise to legitimate concerns about the accountability and transparency of both the process itself, and its outcome".

(Source: [House of Lords](#))

Week ahead

The European Parliament is in summer recess until 1 September 2015.

