

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 5 August

President Barroso voices support for Italy and Spain

EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso has voiced support for Italy and Spain, whose financial markets are both under attack, but has acknowledged that, as EU leaders have been slow to deliver on promises, investors now doubt whether the euro zone can overcome its sovereign debt woes. In a letter to EU Heads of State, Barroso urged member states to speed up parliamentary approval of crisis-fighting measures agreed at the 21 July euro zone summit. These measures intend to stop contagion from Greece, Ireland and Portugal, which have received EU/IMF bailouts, to larger European economies. President Barroso stated: "It is essential that we move forward rapidly with the implementation of all of that has been agreed by the Heads of State and Government and send an unambiguous signal of the euro area's resolve to address the sovereign debt crisis with the means commensurate with the gravity of the situation". (Source: EU Commission)

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/news/speeches-statements/pdf/20110804letter_en.pdf

EWEA "Pure Power" report, calls for renewable energy targets beyond 2020

A report by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) has claimed that by 2050 half of the EU's electricity requirements could be fuelled by wind power. The report, entitled "Pure Power", has renewed calls for the European Commission to impose a target for renewable energy beyond 2020. At present the EU is legally bound to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 20% by 2020, and to increase the share of renewables in the energy mix by the same amount, both measured against 1990 levels. Currently wind energy meets just 5.3% of the EU's electricity consumption, but EWEA's report claims that figure

could more than treble by 2020 reaching 18.4% of EU electricity demand. Justin Wilkes, EWEA's head of policy stated: "The Commission is finalising its Energy Roadmap 2050 later this year, and that would be the perfect opportunity for them to give a clear target for renewables beyond 2020". The report's radical claims for the potential share of the electricity market wind could take by 2030 (28.5%) and 2050 (50%), are for the electricity market exclusive of central heating and transport – two very large net users of energy. Such targets would take the EU from 19% renewable electricity today, to an expected 34% in 2020, and to 100% renewable electricity by 2050, according to EWEA. But the group insists that these figures will only be attainable if policymakers put the right conditions in place. (Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/specialreport-wind-energy/half-eu-electricity-wind-2050-news-506890>



Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity.

Council of Ministers

No relevant activity.

European Parliament

In recess until 29 August