

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 17 August

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### Commission launches road charging consultation

The European Commission has launched a consultation on EU rules on road charging for cars and other light vehicles to harmonise existing legislation and finance investment in road infrastructure. At present the EU only has directives covering the charging of lorries. The consultation covers a range of issues including congestion, emissions and charging levels. This public consultation is part of the Commission's work to develop new initiatives on road charging along the lines outlined in the 2011 White Paper on Transport. The consultation is open until 4 November. (Source: European Commission)

[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road/consultations/2012-11-04-roadcharging\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road/consultations/2012-11-04-roadcharging_en.htm)



### Waste rules enter into force

New rules on the collection and treatment of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) came into force on 13 August. The Directive entering into force introduces a collection target of 45% of electronic equipment sold that will apply from 2016 and, as a second step from 2019, a target of 65% of equipment sold, or 85% of electronic waste generated. Member States will be able to choose which one of these two equivalent ways to measure the target they wish to report. From 2018, the Directive will be extended from its current restricted scope to all categories of electronic waste, subject to an impact assessment beforehand. Another expected improvement is the reduction of administrative burdens through

harmonisation of national registration and reporting requirements. Requirements by Member States' registers for producers of e-waste will now be aligned more closely. (Source: European Commission)  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/898&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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### EU-wide industrial production figures down

In June 2012, compared with May 2012, seasonally adjusted industrial production fell by 0.6% in the euro area and by 0.9% in all Member States. In May production rose by 0.9% and 0.8% respectively. In June 2012 compared with June 2011, industrial production dropped by 2.1% in the euro area and by 2.2% in all Member States. (Source: Eurostat)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/12/118&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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### Working Time negotiations extended

The European Commission has agreed to a joint proposal from the European social partners to extend the negotiating period on reviewing the Working Time Directive to 31 December 2012. The Commission consulted the European social partners during 2010 about possible changes to the Working Time Directive, the EU level social partners have the right, if the employer and worker representatives so agree, to enter negotiations themselves on what changes should be made. In the UK, where the opt-out clause is currently applied, the Government have stressed its ambitions to keep this flexibility. The Coalition Agreement's Plan for Government states 'We will examine the balance of the EU's existing competences and will, in particular, work to limit the application of the Working Time Directive in the UK.' (Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/903&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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## EU-wide inflation remains stable

Euro area annual inflation was 2.4% in July 2012, stable compared to June. A year earlier the rate was 2.6%. Monthly inflation was down 0.5% in July 2012. EU annual inflation was 2.5% in July 2012, also stable compared to June. A year earlier the rate was 2.9%. Monthly inflation was down 0.4% in July 2012.

(Source: Eurostat)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/12/120&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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## Week ahead

### **European Commission**

No relevant activity

### **Council of Ministers**

No relevant activity

### **European Parliament**

Parliament will be in recess until 3 September 2012.