

### Automotive and telecom industries launch joint EU dialogue at the Frankfurt IAA

The European Union aims to increase the contribution made by manufacturing to GDP from 16% to 20% by 2020. Automated and connected driving will be a key driver of Europe's re-industrialisation, thanks to sustained markets and technology leadership. For this reason, the European automotive and telecom sectors, encouraged by Commissioner Oettinger, have come together to shape the debate by means of a structured "EU Industry Dialogue on automated and connected driving". The dialogue will concentrate on the following strategic objectives:

- Prioritising connectivity, network coverage & reliability;
- Facilitating take-up;
- Ensuring trust and security.

The industries will therefore identify areas requiring further cooperation, areas in which supportive public policies are needed and areas requiring regulatory intervention. The kick-off meeting of the EU Industry Dialogue took place on 16 September in Frankfurt, at the 66th International Motor Show, during a roundtable chaired by Günther Oettinger, European Commissioner for Digital economy and Society.

(Source: [ACEA](#))



### European new car market up 11.2% in August

Figures released by the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) showed a rise of 11.2% in demand for new passenger cars across the EU, reflecting the ongoing recovery in the market and pursuing the upward trend commenced two years ago. August is typically one of the weakest months for registrations, together with February, however the month saw continued growth in all major markets. Registrations in Spain (+23.3%), Italy (+10.6%), France (+10.0%), the UK (+9.6%) and Germany (+6.2%) increased compared to August 2014. Across the region, new passenger car registrations totalled 744,799 units. Over eight months in 2015, new passenger car registrations increased (+8.6%), surpassing 9 million units (9,056,539). All major markets posted growth, contributing to the overall upturn of the EU market over the period. Southern European countries in particular are enjoying strong growth, with Spain (+22.3%) and Italy (+15.0%) posting double-digit percentage gains, followed by the UK (+6.7%), France (+5.9%) and Germany (+5.6%). (Source: [ACEA](#))

### Auto industry launches data protection commitment

President of the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), Carlos Ghosn, outlined the automotive industry's approach to tackling CO2 from road transport, focusing on the potential of intelligent transport systems (ITS), at the Frankfurt Motor Show this week. Mr Ghosn also presented the EU industry's new statement on the protection of personal data. Mr Ghosn's statements marked the launch of a new study by ERTICO on the extent to which ITS systems can reduce CO2 emissions from cars. (Source: [ACEA](#))

# Commission proposes new Investment Court System

On 16<sup>th</sup> September, the European Commission presented its [proposal for a new Investment Court System \(ICS\)](#), whereby a new and more transparent system would be used to resolve disputes between investors and states. Key details of this proposal entail:

- Over time, the ICS will replace all investment dispute mechanisms available in EU agreements, EU agreements with third countries and in trade and investment treaties between non-EU countries.
- Publicly appointed and highly qualified judges will operate in the ICS, similar to permanent international courts such as International Court of Justice and WTO Appellate Body.
- The ICS will be composed of a first instance Tribunal as well as an Appeal Tribunal.
- Cases brought before the Tribunals will be precisely limited to cases of discrimination on the base of gender, race, religion or nationality, expropriation without compensation or denial of justice.
- The new ICS aims to preserve national governments' right to regulate and ensure transparency as well as accountability.

The discussion will now continue to take place between the Commission, European Council and the Parliament. Any conclusions will be presented in ongoing and future trade negotiations, such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) as an EU text proposal. The next round (11<sup>th</sup>) of TTIP negotiations will take place in Miami on 19 - 23 October. (Source: CBI)

## Manufacturers warn against dropping guard on China

According to a study for a group of 25 European manufacturing federations, the EU could lose up to 3.5 million jobs if it removes its trade defences against China. The [report](#), presented to senior EU officials and lawmakers this week, forecasts that EU imports of manufactured goods would rise by between 25 and 50% over the next three years. The European Union, along with other World Trade Organization (WTO) members, needs to determine whether to accord China "market economy status" (MES) at the end of 2016. The WTO recognised when Communist China

joined the trade body in 2001 that local prices were not set by market forces but expected that 15 years later Beijing would play less of a role in directing the economy. MES status is important because, if granted, it reduces the EU's ability to impose anti-dumping tariffs on Chinese imports. This could only happen if Chinese export prices were beneath already low domestic prices. Opponents, such as Aegis Europe, a grouping of 25 European industry federations from steel to ceramics, say that Chinese prices are not the result of normal market forces but are artificially depressed. The report says that the sectors hardest hit would be automotive parts, paper and paper products, steel, ceramics, glass, aluminium and bicycles, which collectively employ 2.7 million people in the EU. (Source: [Euroactiv](#))

---

## Week ahead

### European Council

Tuesday 22 September

- Informal meeting of Energy Ministers

Wednesday 23 September

- Informal meeting of heads of state and government

### European Parliament

Monday 21 September

- INTA – State of Play of international trade negotiations; opening of negotiations for an EU-Tunisia Free Trade Agreement
- ITRE – Horizon 2020 – First results; TTIP Negotiations; Developing a thriving data driven economy

Tuesday 22 September

- ENVI – Towards a new international climate agreement
- LIBE – Towards a Digital Single Market Act

Wednesday 23 September

- IMCO – Towards improved Single Market Regulation