

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 20 September

European new car registrations fall 5% in August

Figures published by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, show that after a 5.0% increase in July, new passenger car registrations declined by 5.0% in August in Europe. Eight months into the year, demand for new cars amounted to 7,841,596 units, or 5.2% less than in the same period last year. In July, Italy was the only major market to shrink (-1.6%), while growth reached +0.9% in France, +2.1% in Germany, +12.7% in the UK and +14.9% in Spain. In total, 982,544 new cars were registered in the EU, or 5.0% more than in July 2012. In August, the downturn prevailed across significant markets, resulting in an overall 5.0% decline in the EU. The UK was the only major market to expand (+10.9%), while the German market contracted by 5.5%, the Italian by 6.6%, the French by 10.5% and the Spanish by 18.3%. The EU totalled 653,872 new car registrations in the month of August. From January to August, most major markets faced a downturn ranging from -3.6% in Spain to -6.6% in Germany, -9.0% in Italy and -9.8% in France. The UK was the only one to perform better than in the first eight months of 2012 (+10.44%). New registrations fell by 5.2% over the period this year, totalling 7,841,596 units, representing the lowest January to August level ever recorded.

(Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/passenger_car_registrations_-5.2_over_eight_months_-5.0_in_august



EU and Singapore present text of comprehensive free trade agreement

The EU and Singapore have released the text of one of the most comprehensive trade agreements the EU has ever negotiated. It is the first EU deal with a Southeast Asian economy and has the potential to open the door to Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with other countries from the region. The release of the texts follows their initialing in Singapore, by the chief negotiators from the European Commission and Singapore's Government. Rupert Schlegelmilch, the EU's chief negotiator of this trade agreement, stated: "We are pleased to present today one of the most comprehensive free trade agreements ever negotiated, and to submit it to our respective authorities for approval. The EU and Singapore are already trading €1 billion worth of goods every week, and the agreement lays the foundations upon which business ties can prosper further. This is also the first step towards closer economic ties between the two major integrated regions in the world, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the EU, and their 1.1 billion citizens." An economic analysis prepared by the Chief Economist Unit of the European Commission's Directorate General for Trade predicts that EU exports to Singapore could rise by some €1.4 billion over 10 years. Singapore's exports to the EU could rise by some €3.5 billion in the same period, including exports from the many European companies established in Singapore. Reflecting the large differences in the sizes of the two economies, the analysis estimates EU real GDP will grow by around €550 million in comparison to an increase of €2.7 billion for Singapore. The draft agreement is currently being translated into all 24 EU languages and will then be submitted to the European Commission for formal approval. Afterwards, the Council of Ministers must first approve it before the agreement passes before the European Parliament for final ratification in a plenary vote.

(Source: European Parliament)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-849_en.htm

EUCAR publishes research and innovation priorities in "Sustainable Propulsion"

EUCAR, The European Council for Automotive R&D, has published the second summary of its series of roadmaps for research and innovation (R&I) in Horizon 2020, for the Strategic Pillar "Sustainable Propulsion". The summary sets out the EUCAR strategic vision for sustainable propulsion technologies, derived from the long-term objectives for industry and society, within the context of global trends. The summary contains industrialisation milestones which set guiding objectives for the future R&I activities. The priority R&I topics in this domain are categorised in two main areas, for which EUCAR's Expert Groups have compiled detailed roadmaps defining the strategic collaborative R&I priorities for the industry, in order to meet the set objectives:

- Internal-combustion engine (ICE) based powertrain - all powertrains which include an internal combustion engine.
- Electric vehicle (xEV) based powertrain - all powertrains with an electric drive, including battery electric vehicles, fuel-cell electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, range-extender electric vehicles.

The roadmaps are to be shared with the European Commission as recommendations for the content of Horizon 2020's constituent programmes, and with other stakeholders in the collaborative R&I community.

(Source: EUCAR)

<http://www.eucar.be/>

Single Market Month to kick off with debates on jobs

Monday 23 September sees the first in a series of four online debates on the Single Market as part of the Single Market Month which will run from 23 September until 23 October 2013. Against the backdrop of the 2013 European Year of Citizens, Single Market Month – an initiative of the European Parliament and the Commission - will be an opportunity for citizens and stakeholders to make proposals for the future of the EU and to debate those proposals live online with other citizens, stakeholders, officials and leaders, and experts from all over Europe. Starting 23 September with a live online VIP chat with Internal Market Commissioner Michel Barnier at 11.00 CET, the online forum offers

stakeholders an immediate line of communication to Brussels policymakers. The forum will host debates on four themes: Jobs, Social Rights, Banks, and e-Commerce in all 24 EU languages.

(Source: European Parliament)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-847_en.htm?locale=en

Week ahead

European Commission

Wednesday 25 September

Commission presents its 'Opening up Education' initiative

Council of Ministers

26-27 September

Competitiveness Council

Ministers are expected to primarily discuss:

- Policy actions to support European small and medium- sized enterprises (SMEs).
- Current conditions and future perspectives of European industry as a whole; with particular focus on the defence and steel industry following recent events.
- Progress of the 'Innovation Union' flagship initiative and steps towards the completion of a common European Research Area.
- Launching a new generation of public and private partnerships under the umbrella of 'Horizon 2020'

European Parliament (Committees - Brussels)

ENVI: Wednesday 25 September

- Consideration of draft report: Developing and applying carbon capture and storage technology in Europe
- Adoption of draft report: Eco-innovation – Jobs and Growth through environmental policy

ITRE: 25-26 September

- Adoption of consolidated text: Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (2014 - 2020)
- Adoption of consolidated text: Establishment of Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)

ENVI & ITRE: Thursday 26 September

First exchange of views: A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies