

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 23 September

Pressure mounts on eurozone leaders over economic crisis

World leaders have increased pressure on Europe to take decisive action to contain its debt crisis, as markets fell dramatically over fears of a breakdown to the eurozone. The heads of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, leaders of the United States, Britain and other major economies, and developing country officials all called on Europe's chiefs to take action quickly to contain Greece's debt emergency and to shore up the region's banks. The warnings came amid a huge selloff in financial and commodity markets, sparked both by Europe's problems and perceptions that the US economy is falling back toward recession. World Bank president Robert Zoellick stated: "Europe, Japan, and the United States must act to address their big economic problems before they become bigger problems for the rest of the world. Not to do so is irresponsible". However European chiefs stood firm on their commitment to reduce deficits, with European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs Olli Rehn stating that slower growth "is no excuse to stop putting our fiscal houses in order. That is necessary to restore confidence". (Source: EUBusiness)

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/finance-economy.cem>

European auto makers take initial steps to a uniform system of e-vehicle charging

ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers Association, has published a position paper that defines a comprehensive set of recommendations to standardise the charging of electrically-chargeable vehicles. The joint industry proposal will enable the use of one type of plug independent of car make, electricity provider or country, which is key to help e-mobility gain a viable market share across Europe,

and further abroad. The industry recommendations cover the whole link between the public charging infrastructure and the vehicle inlet including the communication between the two, and they address both slow and fast charging with direct or alternate current. As soon as approved by the relevant standardisation bodies, vehicle manufacturers will start integrating the uniform application in their production cycles. The auto industry advocates the full implementation for new vehicles types from 2017.

(Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/images/uploads/files/20110922_ACEA_Position_Paper_on_EVs_standardisation.pdf



European Commission to consult on reducing CO₂ emissions from road vehicles

The European Commission has announced a consultation on the reduction of CO₂ emissions from road vehicles. At present the EU is committed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95%, compared to their level in 1990, by 2050. In order to achieve this reduction at the lowest cost, the "Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050" estimates that transport-sector emissions should be cut by 50-70% by 2050. The consultation includes questions around which types of heavy duty vehicles should have carbon reduction limits, what measures should be used to achieve these reduction limits, how to tackle lorry emissions and whether non-CO₂ transport emissions such as methane should also be addressed. The consultation will run until 9 December

2011. A recent report from the EU's Joint Research Centre, "Long-term trends in global CO₂ emissions", has shown that global CO₂ emissions increased by 45% between 1990 and 2010, reaching an all-time high of 33 billion tonnes. The report illustrates that the increased use of renewables, nuclear power, and better energy efficiency, have not kept up with the world's growing demand for power and transport, which is strongest in developing countries. The figures will give added impetus to the negotiations taking place to try and find a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol at the Durban Climate Change Summit in November and December. (Source: Europa)
<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=CO2road&lang=EN>



"Roadmap for a resource-efficient Europe" initiative announced

The European Commission has announced the launch of the "Roadmap for a resource-efficient Europe" initiative, which outlines how resource efficient growth can be achieved, and is aimed at transforming Europe's economy into a sustainable one by 2050. The roadmap identifies the economic sectors that consume the most resources, including mobility,

food and building, and suggests tools and indicators to help guide action in Europe and internationally. It sets an agenda for competitiveness and growth based on using fewer resources when producing and consuming goods and creating business and job opportunities from activities such as recycling, better product design, materials substitution and eco-engineering. This Roadmap aims to build on and complement other initiatives under the Europe 2020 flagship initiative, such as the Roadmap for a low-carbon economy the White paper on transport adopted in spring 2011 and the Energy Roadmap expected for later this year. (Source: Europa)
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1046&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity

Council of Ministers

Monday 26 September

Foreign Affairs Council - Trade

European Parliament

Meetings of Committees (Strasbourg)

Monday 26 September

ENVI – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban South Africa

Plenary Session (Strasbourg)

Monday 26 September

European Road Safety – Debate and Vote

New trade policy for Europe under the Europe 2020 strategy – Debate and Vote

