

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 4 October

Commission signs €4 million grant for sustainable urban mobility

The European Commission has signed a grant agreement worth €4 million with a consortium of 14 European research institutes, associations and consulting companies — including 10 SMEs — for a three-year project known as "Civitas Capital". The project will:

- pool existing knowledge through groups dedicated to specific topics who will produce best-practice guides;
- issue recommendations on future R&D priorities which the Commission will integrate in its 2014–2020 research programme;
- develop training packages and organise placement and exchange of urban mobility professionals
- manage an activity fund of close to €500,000 to support the transfer of measures to other cities, allowing more cities to implement successful urban mobility measures;
- create five additional national and regional networks and continue to manage the five existing ones — these networks increase the dissemination of know-how and best practice within their language group or geographical group;
- develop a knowledge centre that will be available to all stakeholders through the Civitas website — a one-stop-shop where all material produced for and by Civitas will be available to all, for learning and reapplication.

Commenting on the announcement, Commission Vice-President Siim Kallas, responsible for transport, stated: "This grant demonstrates the continued commitment of the EU to sustainable urban mobility. Civitas is one of the most important EU initiatives in this field, and will deliver tangible results. We need to develop further the urban dimension of our transport policy. To that end, the Commission will present a comprehensive urban mobility package later this year."

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-883_en.htm

New ACEA Secretary General takes up office

Erik Jonnaert has taken up the role of Secretary General of the European automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) following confirmation by the ACEA Board of Directors in September. The Board of Directors also asked the previous Secretary General Mr Ivan Hodac to stay on as Senior Advisor to the ACEA Board and to the Secretary General until the end of the year.

(Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/press_release_new_acea_secretary_general_takes_up_office



EUCAR publishes research & innovation priorities

EUCAR, the European Council for Automotive R&D, has published research innovation priorities for its third Strategic Pillar "Affordability & Competitiveness". The summary provides an overview of the priorities for collaborative automotive R&I for the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme, planned for the period 2014 to 2020. It sets out a strategic vision for the domain, the milestones to be reached for future industrialisation of technologies and the specific research areas of key importance. In the Affordability & Competitiveness Pillar, three main domains are relevant:

- Application of suitable materials: Materials suitable for enhanced affordable and competitive design and manufacturing of functionally-optimised and light weight vehicles
- Virtual engineering: Innovative engineering solutions to guarantee and ensure the European automotive competitiveness for future vehicle generations
- Sustainable and Flexible Manufacturing: Efficient and effective manufacturing systems capable of producing affordable and competitive vehicles in Europe

(Source: EUCAR)

<http://www.eucar.be/Executive%20Summary%20Roadmaps%20AC>

Regulatory issues top the agenda of second round of EU-US TTIP negotiations

The focus of the upcoming second round of negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) on 7-11 October is for the European Union and the United States negotiators to make progress on regulatory issues and standards. EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht emphasised that this is what will make TTIP different from traditional trade agreements stating: "Our main ambition - beyond simply reducing tariffs across the board - is to make the EU and the US regulatory systems more compatible and to help shape global rules in trade". Mr Gucht further stated that be it on food safety, financial services such as the regulation of derivatives or standards for electric cars, the aim is to strive for a mutual recognition on the basis of the current standards, not to water down any regulation. "The reality is that over the last decades, Europe has seen its standards rise to a level of global excellence and leadership. And it's on this basis that both sides agree to use such a transformative process to raise their game." He also added that "in many ways, Europe has 'been there, seen that and done that' in its early preparations during the 1980s for a Single Market." Even if neither side had the ambition to go that far in TTIP, "our aim should still be to progressively build a more integrated transatlantic marketplace". Commissioner De Gucht expects the negotiators to provide an outline of the regulatory and rules component of TTIP for political review in January 2014. "On that basis, the political guidance can be given to try to make a maximum of progress throughout next year." After the second round of talks on 7-11 October in Brussels, another round of

negotiations is planned for December 2013 in Washington DC.

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-835_en.htm?locale=en



Week ahead

European Commission

The Commission presents together with the OECD results of the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC): The survey will for the first time provide comparable data on literacy, numeracy and problem solving skills for the adult population in 24 countries. The results highlight striking differences in skills levels between countries.

Council of Ministers

No relevant activity

European Parliament (Plenary - Strasbourg)

Monday 7 October

European Carbon Market in 2012

Tuesday 8 October

- EU-China negotiations for a bilateral investment agreement – Commission statement
- EU-Taiwan trade relations – oral question
- EU Trade policy towards countries of the Eastern Partnership ahead of the Vilnius Summit – oral question