

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 10 October

Lord Hill appointed UK Commissioner

The UK Commission-nominee Lord Hill has been appointed as the EU commissioner for financial services, after being recalled for a second hearing in front of a panel of MEPs. Hill was granted the position after being given a vote of 45-13 in his favour. During his initial assessment, MEPs voiced concerns around his background in public relations, as well as noting their concern around new EU efforts to boost the market in securitised debt. In response, Lord Hill said he favoured creating a bigger European market in securitised debt, provided it was based on "simplicity and transparency". Other appointments announced for the Commission include Former French Prime Minister Pierre Moscovici, who was approved as the Chief of Economic Affairs, and Miguel Arias Cañete as the new EU Climate and Energy Commissioner. Juncker's first set-back was seen in the form of Slovenia's candidate Alenka Bratušek, who was rejected for the position of Vice-President for Energy Union.

(Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-29518722>

Commission adopts proposal to reduce carbon content of transport fuels

The European Commission has adopted a proposal to implement existing obligations in the 2009 amendment of the Fuel Quality Directive. Suppliers will be obliged to reduce the life cycle greenhouse gas intensity of fuel and other energy sources supplied for use in road vehicles by 6% by 2020. The Directive also obliges suppliers to report information on the greenhouse gas intensity of the fuel they supply to authorities designated by the member states. To increase transparency regarding the type and origin of fuels being used in EU road transport, more stringent reporting rules are being put into place. This information will be reported by suppliers to member states and then onto the Commission, and will result in a better understanding of the fuel mix used by road vehicles in the EU. The proposal will now be

submitted to the Council for a decision within two months, and to the European Parliament for scrutiny.

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-1095_en.htm

TTIP negotiating directives made public

The Council of the European Union has made the decision to declassify the negotiating mandate for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the United States. The mandate was agreed in June 2013, and the Commission is leading negotiations on behalf of the EU. Seven negotiating rounds have been held so far, with the latest being held in Washington from 29 September to 3 October. The table of content includes market access: Trade in Goods; Trade in Services and Establishment; Investment Protection; Public procurement; Intellectual Property Rights; Trade and sustainable development; Customs and Trade facilitation; Sectoral Trade Agreements; Trade and Competition; Trade related energy and raw materials; Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises; Capital Movement and Payments; Transparency; Other Rules Areas; and Institutional Framework and Final Provisions. The decision to declassify the mandate was taken by common accord.

(Source: Council of European Union)

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/145014.pdf

Week ahead

Council of Ministers

Tuesday 14 October:

Economic and Financial Affairs Council: Discuss the Commission Communication on research and innovation as sources of renewed growth.

European Parliament

Monday 13 October

TRAN: Weights and Dimensions Directive and Scrutiny of Commission's Implementing Powers.

JURI: Amending Directive on End-of-Life Vehicles