

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 11 October

COREPER I endorses final compromise text regarding CO2 emissions from vans

The Lithuanian Presidency asked the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER I) to analyse the final compromise text with a view to an agreement on the CO2 from vans legislation (Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 510/2011 to define the modalities for reaching the 2020 target to reduce CO2 emissions from new light commercial vehicles). COREPER I endorsed the final compromise text. Ambassador A. Vinčiūnas signed a letter informing the European Parliament about the decision. The agreed text is the result of negotiations within the Council itself and its informal dialogues with the European Parliament and the European Commission, which took place during the Irish Presidency. The Committee of Permanent Representatives also was asked to analyse the final compromise text with a view to agreement on the CO2 from cars legislation (Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 443/2009 to define the modalities for reaching the 2020 target to reduce CO2 emissions from new passenger cars). The discussions at COREPER I showed that the qualified majority is not obtainable at this stage for the final compromise text to be endorsed. However, no delegation opposed the first reading agreement in principle. COREPER I concluded that this issue is forwarded to be discussed in the Environment Council scheduled to take place 14 October in Luxembourg.

(Source: Lithuanian Presidency)

<http://www.eu2013.lt/en/news/pressreleases/final-compromise-text-regarding-the-co2-emissions-from-light-commercial-vehicles-endorsed-by-coreper-i->

Second round of EU-US TTIP negotiations cancelled due to US administration shutdown

US Trade Representative Michael Froman informed EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht on Friday 4

October that due to the on-going furlough, the US Administration was not in a position to send to Brussels officials from USTR and US Government agencies to maintain the planned second round of negotiations in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), initially scheduled for 7-11 October 2013 in Brussels. Commissioner De Gucht stated that “the US side has promised to provide us with further information as soon as is feasible on when and how further occasions for engagement - including negotiation rounds - can be scheduled.” The Commissioner also reiterated the clear commitment of both the EU and the US to TTIP. “The cancellation of next week’s negotiation round in Brussels is clearly unfortunate but let me underline that it in no way distracts us from our overall aim of achieving an ambitious trade and investment deal between Europe and the US which will bring real economic benefit to people on both sides of the Atlantic.”

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-855_en.htm?locale=en



EU requests WTO panel with Russia over vehicle exports

The EU has requested the establishment of a dispute settlement panel at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva to rule on the legality of the ‘recycling fee’ which Russia imposes on imported vehicles. This is the next step under WTO litigation procedures, after the EU has held formal consultations with Russia in July this year. The EU claims that the fee is discriminatory towards imports

and has had a severe impact on EU vehicle exports to Russia, worth €10 billion a year. The EU has repeatedly raised the issue in bilateral talks with Russia, and then in formal WTO consultations. On 9 July this year, the EU requested formal consultations in the WTO hoping Russia would propose an alternative to its discriminatory measures. Japan made a similar request on 24 July. The EU consultations with Russia held on 29 and 30 July failed to resolve the dispute and Moscow continues to apply the fees. Commenting on the situation EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht stated: "We've used all the possible avenues to find with Russia a mutually acceptable solution. As the fee continues to severely hamper exports of a sector that is key for Europe's economy, we are left with no choice but to ask for a WTO ruling to ensure Russia complies with its international obligations."

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-933_en.htm?locale=en

EU over-achieves on first Kyoto emissions target

New reports from the European Commission and European Environment Agency show that the European Union has succeeded in cutting its greenhouse gas emissions by 18% since 1990. The EU has also over-achieved its reduction commitment under the first period of the Kyoto Protocol by a wide margin. While EU GDP grew by 45% between 1990 and 2011, total emissions from the 28 member states were 16.9% below 1990 levels in 2011 and an estimated 18% below 1990 in 2012. The Commission's annual progress report on EU greenhouse gas emissions shows that the 15 EU member states at the time the Kyoto Protocol was ratified have overachieved their joint reduction commitment for the first period of the Protocol, which ran from 2008 to 2012. While their commitment called for an annual 8% reduction below base year levels (1990 in most cases), averaged over the period, the actual cut achieved through domestic reduction measures alone is expected to be 12.2%. The 11 other member states that have individual emission reduction commitments under Kyoto's first period are also expected to meet their targets. For the second Kyoto period, which runs from 2013 to 2020, the EU has committed to achieve an average 20% reduction below base year levels annually over the period. The EU intends to fulfil its commitment jointly with Iceland. (Source: European Commission)

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/articles/news_2013100901_en.htm



Week ahead

European Commission

Wednesday 16 October

The European Commission adopts the 2013 Enlargement Package: On 16 October, the 2013 Enlargement Package will be on the agenda of the Commission meeting. It will comprise of a Strategy Paper and eight Progress Reports on the candidate countries and potential candidates. The current enlargement agenda covers the Western Balkans and Turkey, with negotiations with Iceland put on hold by the Icelandic government

Council of Ministers

Monday 14 October

Analysis of the final compromise text with a view to agreement on 'CO2 emissions from new passenger cars'

Tuesday 15 October

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council:

Ministers will have an exchange of views on youth employment, adopting a declaration on European alliance for apprenticeships.

Friday 18 October

Foreign Affairs Council

Approval of a mandate on EU-China negotiations on investment and a mandate on EU-ASEAN negotiations on investment.

European Parliament (Committee week - Brussels)

Monday 14 October

INTA: Trade and economic relations with the US

Thursday 17 October

EMPL: A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies, consideration of draft opinion