

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 12 October

European Commission publishes industrial policy communication

The European Commission has published a communication entitled 'Mission Growth: Europe at the Lead of the New Industrial Revolution' that urges immediate action to revert the current downward trend and promote the re-industrialisation of Europe. The communication sets out a new goal to increase industry's share of EU GDP to around 20% by 2020, up from 16% currently. The four pillars of the reinforced industrial policy are investment in innovation, better market conditions, access to finance and building human capital and skills. The investments in innovation will focus on six priority areas with strong potential for growth and jobs creation, with the Commission also stating that 'member states as well should play their part and should prioritise investments in these six areas'. The priority areas are stated as in advanced manufacturing technologies for clean production, sustainable industrial and construction policy and raw materials, clean vehicles, bio-based products, key enabling technologies, and smart energy grids. The communication also recommends that the single market should be improved with the aim at fostering entrepreneurship with regards to, for example, the digital single market which is expected to grow by 10% a year up to 2016. The Commission also wants to improve lending to the real economy by better mobilising and targeting public resources, including those of the European Investment Bank. This should allocate between €10-15 billion in additional lending for smaller businesses. Finally, in the area of human capital and skills, the Commission will further promote cooperation of employers, workers and relevant authorities through the creation of European Sector Skills Councils and of Knowledge and Sectors Skills Alliances. (Source: European Commission)
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/mission-growth/index_en.htm



'Our Future Mobility Now' event held by ACEA

The CEOs of four of Europe's automobile manufacturers, European Commissioners and MEPs have met together to discuss 'Innovation for Europe, Skills for the Future' with 40 young Europeans. The event was hosted by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturer's Association as part of the 'Our Future Mobility Now' (OFMN) youth project, launched by ACEA last year in order to look into the future of transport and mobility through the eyes of young people. Speaking to reporters before the debate, Sergio Marchionne, ACEA President and CEO of Fiat SpA, outlined the impact of the economic crisis on the European auto industry: "With sales on a downward trend for the past five years running, most automobile manufacturers are losing money in Europe at the moment. And the outlook is far from rosy, as we now expect new car registrations to decrease by between 8-10% compared to 2011". It is therefore vital that the automotive industry preserves its current workforce and guarantees that it has the people who will drive innovation in the future. "We believe very strongly that 'skills' and 'innovation' offer two pathways to help Europe out of the current crisis, and to enable the European automobile industry to remain 'one step ahead' on the global stage," Mr Marchionne explained. "Within ACEA we want to have a dialogue on these issues directly with young people. They are the very ones who will be developing and applying the necessary skills, and they will be the driving force of innovation in the future". Mr Marchionne was joined at the event by Harrie Schippers, CEO of DAF Trucks and ACEA Commercial Vehicles Board Chairman;

Alfredo Altavilla, CEO of IVECO SpA; Didier Leroy, CEO of Toyota Motor Europe; and Ivan Hodac, ACEA Secretary General. Taking part in the debate with the young people and CEOs were European Commissioners Connie Hedegaard (Climate Action), Janez Potočnik (Environment) and László Andor (Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion), as well as MEPs Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Libor Rouček and Pablo Zalba Bidegain. (Source: ACEA)

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

Report states focus on low carbon cars can create new jobs in Europe

Transport & Environment (T&E) the sustainable transport campaigners, have published a report stating that over 100,000 new manufacturing jobs could be created in Europe by investing in the development and manufacturing of fuel efficient technologies to make cars greener. The report, conducted by the Dutch consultancy CE Delft supports conclusions by the European Commission that new CO₂ regulations will boost the EU economy by an average €12bn per year between 2020-2030, thanks to much lower fuel consumption. It also forecasts annual expenditure on labour will increase by €9bn, due to the vehicle labour intensive nature of vehicle manufacturing, while fuels are mostly made from imported oil and need fewer jobs. (Source: T&E) <http://www.transportenvironment.org/publications/ce-delft-literature-review-employment-impacts-ghg-reduction-policies-transport>

EU industrial production up by 0.3% in August 2012

Figures published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union show that In August 2012 compared with July 2012, seasonally adjusted industrial production grew by 0.6% in the euro area and by 0.3% in the EU. However In August 2012 compared with August 2011, industrial production dropped by 2.9% in the euro area and by 1.8% in the EU. (Source: Eurostat) http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-12-144_en.htm?locale=en



Week ahead

European Commission

15-20 October – Single Market Week

17 October – Communication on biofuels

Council of Ministers

15-16 October - Foreign Affairs Council

16 October – General Affairs Council

European Parliament (Group week in Parliament)

No relevant activity