



WEEK IN BRUSSELS



Week ending Friday 15 October 2010

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1. EU too complacent in cutting CO₂ emissions – Hedegaard

EU climate commissioner Conner Hegergaard has criticised Europe for not doing enough to reduce CO₂ emissions. Ms Hedegaard repeated her request for a more ambitious target ahead of a meeting of environment ministers in Luxembourg. Environment ministers met in Luxembourg to discuss a number of issues including the European Commission's analysis of options to move beyond a 20% emission reduction target, published in May. Ms Hedegaard said: "I am afraid we are getting too complacent. The debate over deeper CO₂ cuts in Europe should be closely linked to discussions on the next multi-annual EU budget and where funds should be spent in priority". (Source: EWEA)

[www.ewea.org/index.php?id=60&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=1881&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=259&cHash=2b41b41ba075cecc8d5b196027c817ab](http://www.ewea.org/index.php?id=60&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=1881&tx_ttnews[backPid]=259&cHash=2b41b41ba075cecc8d5b196027c817ab)

2. Milestone for European Research Council research project

A driverless vehicle is aiming to cover 13,000 km in a three month journey through Europe and Asia. The unmanned vans powered by low carbon energy reached a new milestone as the convoy crossed the Chinese border. The "Intercontinental Autonomous Challenge" is part of a research project on autonomous driving, funded by the European Research Council (ERC). The project is aimed at improving road safety and more. Along the varied route to Shanghai, the vans are faced with a range of different environmental and traffic conditions. The trip is part of an experiment testing sensory technology and will show that it is possible - although only in a prototype version - to move goods between two continents with non-polluting vehicles powered by low carbon and with virtually no human intervention. The objective is also to develop an open architecture for future autonomous vehicles to become a standard platform shared by car makers in the design of next generation intelligent vehicles. (Source: European Research Council)

erc.europa.eu/pdf/PressReleaseBroggi_arrival_China.pdf

3. EU to call for paradigm shift on energy – European Commission

Europe's energy infrastructure must be overhauled if it is to meet its energy needs in the year 2020 and beyond according to the European Commission. The EU's energy grid should be replaced by a "Single European Energy network", according to a copy of the commission's communication on Energy Infrastructure Priorities. Investments to ensure Europe meets its growing energy and climate change needs - including new infrastructure for electricity, gas, oil and carbon capture and storage (CCS) - could amount to as much as €1 trillion. (Source: EUobserver)

euobserver.com/9/31019

4. New EU guide to help European exporters

The European Commission has published an on-line guide to help EU exporters affected by trade defence investigations initiated by non-EU countries. This handbook was developed in view of the increasing use of trade defence

instruments since the beginning of the global economic crisis. It supports the Commission's view that international trade must take place on a level playing field so that the opportunities of open markets can be fully seized by all. EU trade commissioner Karel De Gucht said: "I am confident that this guide will become a valuable tool for EU businesses as they try to respond to an increasing number of trade defence investigations from non-EU countries. The Commission remains focused on creating new opportunities for EU exporters and ensuring that they can compete and do business in foreign markets on fair terms". It gives advice on specific problems and situations that companies frequently face and is designed to achieve the best possible outcome for EU companies facing investigations initiated by non-EU countries. (Source: European Commission)

ec.europa.eu/trade/tackling-unfair-trade/trade-defence/actions-against-eu-exporters/

5. Report shows a cut in emissions would not damage competitiveness

A new report released by the European Climate Action Network (CAN) has shown that a cut in industrial emission does not have to affect European competitiveness. This report shows that such a lowering of emissions is possible using technologies that either already exist, in the pilot phase or are close to being applied in demonstrator projects. According to the report commissioned by CAN-Europe, most of these technologies will reach market maturity between 2020 and 2030. The last section uses the report's main findings to formulate specific policy recommendations to be implemented within the next decade. (Source: CAN)

www.climnet.org/resources/external-documents/doc_download/1712-ce-delft-innovation-technical-background-report-july-2010.html

6. Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity

Council of Ministers

Economic and Financial Affairs Council – 19 October

The council will discuss administrative cooperation in the field of taxation, provide a report on the strengthening of the EU's financial stability framework and implementation of its reform of financial supervision.

European Parliament – Plenary session in Strasbourg

19 October – Bilateral safeguard clause in the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement
Pablo Zalba Bidegain (EPP, Spain) Vote

19 October – Draft general budget of the EU – 2011 financial year
Sidonia Elzbieta Jedrzejewska (EPP, Poland) and Helga Trupel (Greens/EFAM Germany) Rerpot

21 October – EU's trade relations with Latin America
Helmut Scholz (GUE/NGL, Germany) Vote