

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 18 October

EU new car registrations up 5.4% in September

Figures published by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, has shown that in September demand for new cars in the EU rose 5.4%, amounting to 1,159,066 units, from the record low volumes registered in September 2012. The month counted on average one more working day across the EU this year, compared to the last. From January to September, new car registrations declined by 3.9%, compared to the first nine months of 2012, with a total of 9,000,629 vehicles. In September, most major markets posted growth, from +3.4% in France to +12.1% in the UK and +28.5% in Spain. Italy (-2.9%) and Germany (-1.2%) saw their new car registrations decrease. Overall, the EU market expanded by 5.4% compared to the same month last year, despite recording the second lowest level for a month of September. Nine months into the year, the UK was the only significant market to record an increase (+10.8%). Downturn prevailed across other major markets, ranging from -1.6% in Spain to -6.0% in Germany, -8.3% in Italy and -8.5% in France, leading to an overall 3.9% contraction in the EU, compared to the first nine months of 2012.

(Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/passenger_car_registrations_-_3.9_over_nine_months_5.4_in_september

EU air quality package to look beyond 2020

EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik has stated that the forthcoming EU policy package on air quality will set a long-term strategy for cutting pollution in Europe, with new emission ceilings for 2020 and further reduction measures for up to 2030. The Commissioner stressed that the revised National Emission Ceilings Directive (NECD) will not just bring EU legislation in line with Gothenburg goals, it will be a key tool to bring down pollution in the period to 2030. Mr Potočnik noted that the policy package due in December will also include source control measures for the year 2030. "It will create a roadmap

for how we can live longer, become healthier and protect our most fragile ecosystems better". The content of the forthcoming package was first outlined by European Commission officials during Green Week. Mr Potočnik has confirmed that existing air quality standards will not be revised straight away, stating that the focus should first be on compliance with existing standards. A revision will be considered "once the NECD has set overall air pollution on the right downwards track". Other elements of the package include measures to reduce pollution from medium scale combustion installations.

(Source: ENDS)

<http://www.endseurope.com/33429/eu-air-quality-package-to-look-beyond-2020?referrer=news>



Worldwide new car registrations up 5.7% in September

Based on data, which is preliminary in some cases, global demand for passenger vehicles increased 5.7% in September. Global sales were up about 2.33 million units (4.3%) in the first nine months of the year from 2012. The Asia/Pacific region increased by about 4% from 2013 in September, according to preliminary estimates. All key markets in that region were up, with some posting strong gains. The region is up almost 7% for the year-to-date. Eastern Europe (down 1.4%) is continuing to suffer from the impact of the financial crisis, which is weighing down growth in Russia as well. Despite the availability of cheap credit, registrations in that country were down by 5%. For the year, this region is down around 1% for the first nine

months of the year. The NAFTA region (up 10%) is continuing to trend upward as the U.S. reported strong growth once again despite the budget crisis. Global new registrations are expected to set a new record in 2013, showing growth of 4% over 2012. New registrations in the Asia/Pacific region are forecast to increase by about 6% in 2013 compared to the prior year; it was raised by 100,000 units due to strong growth in China and Japan. The NAFTA registrations are expected to continue to rebound to about 18.3 million units. Registrations in Latin America are expected to grow by at least 1%, to 6.1 million units. Eastern Europe registrations are set to decline slightly in 2013, the worsening economic outlook in conjunction with low oil prices has caused new registrations to slump, leading to a reduction in the forecast by 100,000 units.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smm.co.uk/2013/10/worldwide-new-car-registrations-up-5-7-in-september/>

EU grants €1.6 billion to support key TEN-T infrastructure projects

The European Commission has selected a total of 172 projects that will benefit from almost €1.6 billion in EU co-financing from the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) Programme for improving transport infrastructure across Europe. 89 projects selected from the 2012 Multi-Annual Call and 83 from the 2012 Annual Call will use this financial support to help realise TEN-T network development – ranging from preliminary studies for new projects to top-up grants aimed to help assist on-going construction initiatives, in all transport modes. The 2012 Multi-Annual Programme Call provided €1.348 billion of funding to projects financing the highest priorities of the TEN-T network, focusing on six modal areas including Intelligent Transport Systems/European Electronic Toll System (ITS/EETS), where 2 projects were selected, receiving €3.58 million in funding. The individual funding Decisions will be gradually adopted by the European Commission during the months of October and December 2013. In the framework of the TEN-T days 2013 in Tallinn, 32 of these individual Decisions will be handed over to the Ministers and Secretaries of State that will be present.

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-941_en.htm



Industrial production up by 1.0% in euro area

Figures published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, show that In August 2013 compared with July 2013, seasonally adjusted industrial production grew by 1.0% in the euro area (EA17) and by 0.5% in the EU28. In July industrial production fell by 1.0% and 0.6% respectively. In August 2013 compared with August 2012, industrial production dropped by 2.1% in the euro area and by 1.6% in the EU28. In August 2013 compared with July 2013, production of capital goods grew by 2.4% in the euro area and by 1.4% in the EU28. Intermediate goods increased by 0.9% and 0.8% respectively. Durable consumer goods rose by 0.8% in the euro area, but fell by 0.9% in the EU28. Non-durable consumer goods gained 0.5% in the euro area and decreased by 0.3% in the EU28. Energy increased by 0.4% and 0.2% respectively. Among the Member States for which data are available, industrial production rose in thirteen and fell in ten. The highest increases were registered in Portugal (+8.2%), Malta (+7.2%) and the Czech Republic (+4.7%), and the largest decreases in Estonia (-3.5%), Sweden (-2.8%) and Latvia (-2.0%).

(Source: Eurostat)

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/4-14102013-AP/EN/4-14102013-AP-EN.PDF

Week ahead

Information not yet available