



WEEK IN BRUSSELS



Week ending Friday 22 October 2010

- 1. Heavy lorries to pay for costs of air and noise pollution**
- 2. European Union tackles emissions trading fraud**
- 3. European Council and MEPs will set 2011 budget**
- 4. European Union eyes closer trade ties with Japan**
- 5. Week ahead**

1. Heavy lorries to pay for costs of air and noise pollution

The EU has voted in favour of allowing member states to charge heavy lorries, not only for the costs of the infrastructure which is currently the case, but also to levy an additional charge to cover the cost of air and noise pollution. The proposal to revise the current "Eurovignette Directive" is aimed at enabling member states to better manage problems of congestion, with a new flexibility to differentiate the charges applied to heavy lorries at different periods of the day. Siim Kallas, vice-president of the European Commission responsible for Transport, said: "It is part of a much broader drive to create a "fair financial" framework for transport where prices for the different transport modes reflect the real costs to society and the taxpayer."

ec.europa.eu/transport/greening/index_en.htm

2. European Union tackles emissions trading fraud

New rule to prevent fraud in the EU emission trading scheme (ETS) have entered into force and the law updates rules on the operation of registries. The anti-fraud measures include new powers for national administrators to refuse to open a new trading account, or to suspend or close accounts where fraud is suspected. The revision also enables information to be shared with law enforcement agencies and other national authorities. Fraud has become an increasing problem for the EU ETS. Millions of Euros have been siphoned off in cases of VAT. (Source: European Commission)

ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/ets/index_en.htm

3. European Union eyes closer trade ties with Japan

The European Commission is looking at removing trade barriers with Japan after signing a free trade agreement (FTA) with South Korea earlier this month, according to a draft EU trade strategy scheduled to be published next week. After repeated attempts to bring ahead World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations over a new global trade deal, the EU has increasingly engaged in bilateral relations with key partners. Earlier this month an FTA was signed with South Korea and it was the first deal with an Asian country. The EU is already applying FTAs with South Africa, Chile, Mexico and members of the European Economic Area. (Source: EurActiv)

www.euractiv.com/en/trade/eu-eyes-closer-trade-ties-with-japan-news-498986

4. European Council and MEPs will set 2011 budget

MEPs have voted to maintain the funding levels proposed by the European Commission for the EU budget for next year. They agreed on a total of about €130bn in payments and rejected the €3.6bn in cuts proposed by member states in August. While national governments are having to make spending cuts, many MEPs have questioned the EU's justification to increase its budget. Under the new Lisbon treaty rules there will be no further readings of the draft budget. The Council of Ministers and MEPs will begin conciliation talks next week. They will have 21 days to reach an agreement on a joint text. In the resolution accompanying the budget, MEPs noted their dissatisfaction with the inflexibility of

the current system which makes it difficult to respond to crises such as food shortages and climate change. On Tuesday, the commission proposed to create new sources of income for the EU to resolve this problem. (Source: European Parliament)

www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus_page/008-86242-281-10-41-901-20101008FCS86210-08-10-2010-2010/default_p001c011_en.htm

5. Week ahead

European Commission

Wednesday 27 October

Communication on "An Industrial Policy for the Globalised Era" DG – Industry and Enterprise

Wednesday 27 October

Communication on "A trade strategy for Europe 2020" DG – Trade

Wednesday 27 October

Competitiveness Report 2010 + working paper DG – Industry and Enterprise

Council of Ministers

No relevant activity

European Parliament – Committee Meetings (Brussels)

25/26 October INTA – International Trade Policy in the context of Climate Change imperatives

25/26 October INTA – A New Trade policy for Europe under the Europe 2020 Strategy

25/26 October INTA – EU-India trade relations in view of the EU-India Summit

25/26 October ITRE – REACH (Question and answer session with Commission)

25/26 October ITRE – Towards a new Energy Strategy for Europe 2011-2020

26 October IMCO – The impact of advertising on consumer behaviour

26/27 October TRAN – Exchange of views with Belgium Presidency

26/27 October TRAN – Appointment of rapporteurs