

CBI makes case for being in a reformed EU

With the official EU referendum campaigns now launched, the CBI is setting out the business case for why the majority of its member organisations want to remain in a reformed European Union. Alongside a range of its members from different sectors and of all sizes, the UK's leading business group is publishing [Choosing Our Future](#), which outlines the benefits of EU membership – including access to a market of 500 million consumers – but also how the EU must reform to work better for business. The report highlights the benefits of being in the EU, which include:

- More customers for business, through the market of 500 million consumers
- 1 set of rules for British businesses to work by, not 28 different sets
- More international investment
- Access to skills for businesses to grow
- Opening up a third of the world's markets for trade
- Lower prices and more choice for customers.

CBI members recognise that there are disadvantages to EU membership including some aspects of legislation which prove a burden to smaller businesses in particular. That's why the CBI is calling for reform that ensures the EU works better for business, this includes:

- doing more to open up global markets
- reducing and simplifying rules so that firms can grow
- ensuring that non-Eurozone countries remain protected from further integration

It also argues that the alternatives to full EU membership offer more downsides than upsides.

(Source: [CBI](#))

More EU countries join call for stricter emission tests

Several EU member states will urge Europe's pollution regulator to thoroughly assess the consequences of the recent emissions scandal, according to a

document seen by AFP. "The environmental dimension needs to be clearly assessed and highlighted," said the letter, which was addressed to the EU's 28 environment ministers ahead of talks on October 26 in Luxembourg. "The case could have a direct bearing on the total emissions of a country, and might have an impact on efforts by all member states to fulfil their (emission) obligations ... and meet air quality standards in the EU," the letter said. The letter, dated Monday, was written by Austria and Denmark and officially backed by France, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Luxembourg. The six countries also urged the swift introduction of real-driving tests. In its own letter to ministers, Belgium said full implementation should take place no later than 2017.

(Source: [EUBusiness](#))

TTIP negotiators meet for 11th round of talks

EU and US negotiators resumed talks on Monday 19 October to advance the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The 11th round of discussions, held in Miami, addressed a still-substantial list of differences on key issues between the two sides, after more than two years of talks on the ambitious Partnership. But they come after the agreement with of trade ministers two weeks ago to set up a Pacific free trade group with the US, Japan, Canada and nine other countries.

(Source: [Euractiv](#))



Call for applications for membership in the High Level Group on Automotive Industry

By decision C(2015) 6943 of 19 October 2015, the European Commission has set up the High Level Group on Automotive Industry GEAR 2030. The group should help to develop recommendations to reinforce both the short-term and long-term competitiveness of the European automotive industry. The High Level Group shall be composed of up to 25 members consisting of the national authorities and organisations in EU countries, and shall be chaired by a representative of the Commission. This call for applications is opened for the selection of members other than national authorities responsible for the automotive sector at ministerial level. Members of the HLG shall be selected among:

- a) EU umbrella associations and federations from the automotive industrial value chain representing different level of the automotive value chain
- b) trade unions
- c) civil society organisations
- d) ICT associations, network operators and digital services associations active in the field of connected vehicles and/or autonomous vehicles
- e) academia

Interested organisations are asked to submit their application to the European Commission no later than 20 November 2015. (Source: [European Commission](#))

Bank of England: EU makes UK economy more dynamic

A Bank of England study has concluded that membership of the EU has made the UK economy more dynamic and able to grow without generating inflation or a financial crisis. It found the UK economy was more open and go-ahead because of its EU membership. However, the Bank also found that that greater openness had made the UK more vulnerable to problems such as the recent euro crisis. The Bank said it was "supportive" of further integration within the eurozone area. But, it said that for those economies not in the single currency, there would be a need for "clear principles to safeguard the interests of non euro member states" when further integration went ahead. (Source: [BBC](#))

Greece's creditors demand further reforms

The European institutions and the IMF are increasing their demands on Greece, despite the recent reforms adopted by the Greek parliament. The talks between Greece and the new institutional 'quartet' began on Wednesday (21 October). The old troika of the Commission, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been joined by the European Stability Mechanism (ESM). The Greek government says it needs a recapitalisation fund of €25 billion. But the creditors clearly hope to provide only the bare minimum. As the supervisor of the process, the ECB plans to carry out an asset quality review (AQR) to determine exactly how much money the banks need before bailing them out. But the conditions attached to this bailout may create a raft of other problems. Greece's creditors are now demanding that borrowers who cannot afford to repay their loans be evicted from their homes. The vacated properties would then be sold in order to settle the exact payment due on each loan. Up to now, households with modest incomes have been protected from eviction as long as their main residence was worth less than €250,000.

(Source: [Euractiv](#))

Week ahead

European Commission

Tuesday 27 October

- Commission Work Programme 2016

European Council

Monday 26 October

- Environment Council: Debate on the review of the EU ETS and the issue of emissions from cars and manipulation of emission control system in cars relating to the air quality in the Eu

European Parliament

Tuesday 27 – Wednesday 28 October

- Plenary Meeting

Thursday 29 October

- ENVI – Towards a new international climate agreement in Paris