

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 2 November

Vehicle safety measures become mandatory

EU safety requirements for new types of motor vehicles have become mandatory. From 1 November, measures in the General Safety Regulation entered into force, requiring the inclusion of measures such as seat belt reminders, safety requirements for electric vehicles, child seat anchorages, gear shift indicators and tyre pressure monitoring systems. European Commission Vice President Antonio Tajani, Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, said: "We are working hard to improve the safety of European drivers, passengers and road users in general. These new measures will substantially increase the level of safety by reducing the likelihood and consequences of accidents. This will be a tangible achievement of the European Union. And let's not forget that General Safety Regulation also performed one of the most far-reaching simplifications of our legislation by repealing more than 50 Directives and replacing them with just one single Regulation." The safety measures will become mandatory for new vehicle types from 1 November (i.e. vehicles which undergo type-approval after 1 November 2012) and mandatory for all new vehicles sold on the EU market in 2014. (Source: European Commission)
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1169_en.htm

Council holds first debate on roadworthiness proposal

EU transport ministers have held initial discussions on the European Commission's proposals on roadworthiness. At the latest Transport Council meeting, ministers held an orientation debate on the proposals that look to update common rules on periodic roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles. The conclusions from the meeting note that the Council generally showed a positive attitude towards the proposals, with a large number of ministers considering that such a legislative initiative could usefully contribute to achieving the goals of increased road safety and improved environmental protection.

There were a number of member states that voiced misgivings around the legal form of the legislation, preferring a directive rather than a regulation, with one delegation not seeing the need for an initiative from the Commission at the current time. A majority of member states voiced concerns around the lists of vehicles needed to be tested, with many delegations not convinced by the proposal to increase the frequency of testing. The results of the debate will give guidance for the ongoing work within the Council on this proposal. The dossier is awaiting its first reading in the European Parliament. (Source: Council of the EU)

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/trans/133256.pdf



Tyre labelling law comes into force

As from 1 November, the EU regulation on the labelling of tyres has come into force. The new label, which displays information on tyre performance, including fuel efficiency, wet grip and external rolling noise are designed to help consumers make informed choices when buying tyres. (Source: European Commission)

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/tyres/labelling_en.htm

Week ahead

European Commission

8 November: European Commission adopts “CARS 2020: Action Plan for a competitive and sustainable automotive industry in Europe”.

Council of Ministers

9 November – Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Budget): The Council will provide guidance to the Cyprus presidency for the negotiations with the European Parliament on the 2013 EU budget which takes place within the Conciliation Committee meeting to be held on the same day.

European Parliament (Committee week)

5 November

ECON: Consideration of amendments on Annual Report on EU Competition Policy

6 November

ENVI: Vote on the Climate Change Conference in Doha (COP 18)

IMCO: Exchange of Views with EU Industry and Entrepreneurship Commissioner Antonio Tajani

INTA: Consideration of amendments on the Trade Agreement between the EU and Columbia and Peru;
Public Hearing on EU-China investment policy

EMPL: Consideration of amendments on improving access to finance for SMEs