

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 8 November

### 2020 vans CO<sub>2</sub> target agreed by Environment Committee

The CO<sub>2</sub> emission limit for new light commercial vehicles sold in the EU is to be reduced from 203 g/km today to 175 g/km after 2017 and 147 g/km by 2020, under draft legislation approved by the European Parliament's Environment Committee. The text, already informally agreed with EU ministers, also paves the way for achieving further reductions after 2020, and provides for the introduction of a new test protocol. The 147g/km by 2020 target represents maximum average emissions authorised for manufacturers registered in the EU of vans of up to 2.610 tonnes unladen and 3.5 tonnes laden. It will apply to manufacturers producing more than 1,000 vehicles per year. A system of "super credits" which gives extra weighting to vehicles emitting less than 50 g/km of CO<sub>2</sub> is also included in the text. This system, which already exists, will not be renewed and will expire in 2018. The legislative text will be put to a plenary vote at the 14 to 17 January session in Strasbourg.

(Source: European Parliament)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20131104IPR23617/html/CO2-emissions-cleaner-vans-by-2020>

### EU automotive industry calls for action on South Korean market access barriers

The European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), the European Association of Automotive Suppliers (CLEPA) and European Tyre and Rubber Manufacturers' Association (ETRMA) have raised concerns about restricted access to the South Korean market due to previously-existing and newly-emerging non-tariff barriers ahead of the EU-South Korea summit. ACEA, CLEPA and ETRMA acknowledge the European Commission's efforts to ensure a better environment for the EU automotive industry in South Korea since the trade deal between the two regions

came into force on 1 July 2011. However, the three associations call upon the European Commission and EU member states to now take urgent steps to ensure trade barriers are dismantled stating that this is essential to ensure that free trade for the European automotive industry can become a reality in South Korea.

(Source: ACEA)

[http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news\\_detail/press\\_release\\_european\\_automotive\\_industry\\_calls\\_for\\_action\\_on\\_south\\_korean](http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/press_release_european_automotive_industry_calls_for_action_on_south_korean)



### Commission publishes Autumn 2013 economic forecast

The European Commission has published its economic forecast for Autumn 2013. The forecast identifies encouraging signs that an economic recovery is underway in Europe. After contracting up to the first quarter of 2013, the European economy started to grow again in the second quarter and real GDP is set to continue growing in the remainder of this year, according to the Commission. Growth in the second half of 2013 is expected at 0.5% compared to the same period in 2012 in the EU. On an annual basis, real GDP growth this year is estimated at 0.0% in the EU and -0.4% in the euro area. Looking ahead, economic growth is forecast to gradually gather pace over the forecast horizon, to 1.4% in the EU and 1.1% the euro area in 2014, reaching 1.9 % and 1.7% in 2015, respectively. The Commission says that internal and external adjustment in Europe continues,

underpinned in many cases by the significant structural reforms and fiscal consolidation implemented in recent years. The Commission asserts that this has improved the conditions for domestic demand to gradually become the main engine of growth in Europe. However, against the background of a weakened outlook for emerging market economies, it is expected that the return to solid growth will be a gradual process. Olli Rehn, Commission Vice-President for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Euro said: "There are increasing signs that the European economy has reached a turning point. The fiscal consolidation and structural reforms undertaken in Europe have created the basis for recovery. But it is too early to declare victory: unemployment remains at unacceptably high levels. That's why we must continue working to modernise the European economy, for sustainable growth and job creation."

(Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-1025\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1025_en.htm?locale=en)

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## EU and US to hold second round of trade negotiations

The EU and the US have announced that they will hold a second round of negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in Brussels from Monday 11 to Friday 15 November 2013. The week-long round of negotiations replaces the talks originally scheduled for 7-11 October which were postponed due to the shutdown of the US government. This round of negotiations is expected to put the TTIP discussion process back on track in terms of the planned negotiation timeline. The teams of negotiators from either side of the Atlantic are expected to discuss services, investment, energy and raw materials, and regulatory issues. A session on public procurement had taken place before the shutdown. The talks in Brussels will be followed by a third round of negotiations to be held in Washington DC the week of 16 December.

(Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-1032\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1032_en.htm?locale=en)

## Commission appoints Horizon 2020 expert advisory groups

The European Commission has appointed 15 groups of independent experts to advise on priorities for Horizon 2020, the next EU research and innovation programme. The groups will help in deciding how EU-funded research and innovation can help address major concerns for Europe, such as providing better healthcare and clean, efficient energy. The key advisory groups for the automotive sector are: Smart, green and integrated transport; Future and Emerging Technologies (FET); Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions on skills, training and career development; Nanotechnologies, advanced materials and advanced manufacturing and processing.

(Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-1026\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1026_en.htm?locale=en)



## Week ahead

### Council of Ministers

11 November

Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Budget)

The primary items on the agenda are:

- Providing guidance for the Lithuanian Presidency regarding the negotiations with the European Parliament on the 2014 EU budget
- Discussions regarding next year's EU budget and attempts to keep this in line with member states' financing capacities.

### European Parliament – Committee week - Brussels

TRAN: 14 November

Consideration of draft report: Monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon dioxide emissions from maritime transport and amendment of Regulation (EU) No 525/2013