

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 13 November

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### David Cameron outlines demands for EU reform

David Cameron has outlined his goals for reforming the UK's membership of the EU and has formally set his demands out in a letter to the president of the European Council. In his [speech](#) ahead of the letter's publication, he outlined four objectives for the UK's renegotiation:

1. Protection of the single market for Britain and other non-euro countries
2. Boosting competitiveness by setting a target for the reduction of the "burden" of red tape
3. Exempting Britain from "ever-closer union" and bolstering national parliaments
4. Restricting EU migrants' access to in-work benefits such as tax credits

(Source: [PM Office](#))

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### Donald Tusk reacts to UK renegotiation demands

In his first comment since the UK prime minister wrote to European Council President Donald Tusk setting out his objectives, Mr Tusk said there was "no guarantee" of a deal by December. "I have to say that it will be really difficult to find an agreement," added the European Council president. Mr Tusk made his comments at an emergency EU summit on migration, in Malta, which Mr Cameron was not able to attend because of the visit of Indian prime minister Narendra Modi to the UK. The council president said the chances of getting a deal on the UK's demands by the time EU leaders next met at a summit in a month's time were not high. "Their requests are tough and this is why this matter was so interesting for me, but I have to say that it would be really difficult to find an agreement and, for sure, there is no guarantee that we can do this by December," said Mr Tusk. Speaking to BBC Newsnight, French digital affairs minister Axelle Lemaire suggested there was "no willingness, at least in the short term" to change EU treaties to accommodate the UK's request to restrict newly-arrived EU citizens' access to benefits.

(Source: [BBC](#))

### Transport Committee approves emission-capping urban mobility report

The European Parliament's Transport and Tourism Committee (TRAN) has approved a report on sustainable transport in cities this week that includes measures on digitising transport infrastructure and capping emissions. The bill will be voted on in a plenary session on 2 December and is intended as a set of recommendations for the European Commission ahead of a legislative proposal expected in 2017. MEPs approved the non-binding report with 41 votes in favour, 4 opposing and no abstentions. The committee vote comes amid the Commission's drive to fund intelligent transport systems and infrastructure that relies on digital features to cut fuel use, help drivers find parking or communicate with public authorities and other vehicles. The Commission is directing funds towards smart cities projects through Horizon2020 and other programmes to increase the use of technology in city management, with transport featuring prominently in those funding schemes. Last week, the Commission opened a new funding call targeting digital transport infrastructure and intelligent transport systems. (Source: [Euractiv](#))



## European Commission finalises proposal for ICS for TTIP

The European Commission published its finalised proposal for a new system of resolving disputes between states and investors yesterday. This proposal aims to replace the existing Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) with a new Investment Court System (ICS). The new approach towards investment protection and investment dispute resolution is mainly aimed at the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), however Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström has made it clear that this new system will be used in all ongoing and future EU trade and investment negotiations.

### Key elements of the proposal:

- It aims to safeguard the EU and its Member States' regulatory freedom.
- The new system would be a court-like system with an appeal mechanism based on concrete rules will be created.
- Qualified judges and transparent proceedings will be at the heart of the new system.
- It attempts to make the system more accessible for SMEs.

### Next steps:

- Negotiations with the U.S. will now resume on the subject of investment protection and resolution of investment disputes. These discussions were put on hold in March 2014
- Alongside the EU-U.S. negotiations, the European Commission will begin working with other countries to set up a permanent International Investment Court.
- In order to fully replace the "old ISDS" mechanism with the new system, the EU will apply the new mechanism to all EU Agreements, EU Member States' agreements with third countries and treaties between non-EU countries

(Source: CBI)



## Mercosur states near new EU free trade offer

Four South American countries hope to relaunch stalled negotiations on a free trade deal with the European Union next month, Paraguay's President Horacio Cartes told AFP. "There are just a few details remaining to be resolved" before four members of the Mercosur trade bloc can unveil a new set of figures to propose to the EU to move forward the two-decade negotiations, he said. Mercosur groups those four countries plus Bolivia and Venezuela as full members and has several associate members, including Chile, Peru and Columbia. A trade deal would link two of the world's biggest markets, the Mercosur region of nearly 300 million inhabitants and the EU of over 500 million. But an agreement has proved elusive since negotiations started in the 1990s.

(Source: [EU Business](#))

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## Week ahead

### European Commission

Wednesday 18 November

- State of the Energy Union

### European Council

Sunday 15 – Monday 16 November

- The Council will discuss: Refugee crisis; jobs, growth and investment agenda; youth employment; tax transparency; UN negotiations on climate change

Tuesday 17 – Wednesday 18 November

- General Affairs Council to discuss European Council preparations for December

### European Parliament

Monday 16 November

- LIBE – Towards a Single Digital Market

Tuesday 17 November

- ECON – Completing the Economic and Monetary Union

Wednesday 19 November

- INTA – Opening of FTA negotiations with Australia and New Zealand, opening of negotiations for an EU-Tunisia FTA