

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 14 November

Commissioner Bienkowska outlines vision for EU industrial policy

Elzbieta Bieńkowska, EU Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, has outlined her vision for EU industrial policy in a speech delivered to the EPC-EESC conference. Ms Bieńkowska announced that she will propose a full roadmap with a series of actions to support industry in early 2015. This roadmap will be built around four basic areas:

- Industry needs better access to markets, both in the EU and beyond.
- Industry needs affordable access to resources: finance, energy, raw materials and skills.
- Industry needs to be able to invest in innovation and modernisation.
- Industry needs a favourable business environment.

Ms Bieńkowska also announced that her key focus will be faster and more effective implementation of the currently existing legislation, stating that she intends to relaunch the CARS 2020 process, revise the type-approval framework and give a strong push for the adoption of global rules for the automotive industry. Ms Bieńkowska stated that the EU ambition to raise industry's share of EU GDP towards 20% is not a goal in itself but that the goal is to keep and create high-value jobs and that this is the condition to improve productivity and manufacturing in Europe.

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-14-1680_en.htm

ENVI Committee discusses reducing pollutant emissions from road vehicles

The Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee held an Exchange of Views on the Commission's proposal to reduce pollutant emissions from road vehicles on Monday 10 November.

While there was overwhelming support from all the political groups, the main concern was about the Commission's suggestion of using delegated acts to regulate certain questions rather than doing so via the ordinary legislative procedure. Director of the Industrial Policy & Economic Analysis unit at DG Enterprise and Industry, Carlo Petinelli, spoke on behalf of the Commission and highlighted three groups of measures as the core of the proposal:

- The reduction of the administrative burden: in this regard, elimination of double-testing requirements for higher mass vehicles without compromising air quality is essential.
- Creating more favourable conditions for alternative-fuelled vehicles: The introduction of ammonia limits for heavy-duty vehicles, as well as the inclusion of methane in the CO2 emission calculation serves this reason.
- Focus on the environmental performance of vehicles is reached by the planned CO2 limits

Mr. Petinelli also confirmed that in the near future the Commission will propose a methodology for real driving emissions, stating that the technical work is ongoing on this and the measures are expected to bring real emissions closer to the limits established by the regulation.

(Source: ENVI Committee)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/envi/home.html>

Juncker and Van Rompuy comment on US-China climate announcement

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy have issued a joint statement on the US-China climate announcement. The two leaders welcomed the agreement, stating that the move shows that the call by the EU on 24 October for other countries to come forward quickly with their intended greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets is being answered. In October the EU agreed ambitious targets for 2030 with a legally binding reduction of CO2 emissions of at least 40%, increases of renewable energy and energy efficiency of at least 27%. In responding to the US-China agreement the

two leaders stated: "We urge others, especially the G20 members, to announce their targets in the first half of 2015 and transparently. Only then we can assess together if our collective efforts will allow us to fulfil the goal of keeping global temperature increases well below 2 degrees Celsius. The EU expects these targets to be part of a longer range effort to transition to low carbon economies. Now it will be important to maintain the level of ambition and aim for a credible and durable global climate agreement in Paris next year. In the multilateral UN negotiation process, Lima is the next milestone and we look forward to engaging with all our partners. The clock is ticking. It's time to move to action."

(Source: Europa)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-14-1663_en.htm

Industrial production up by 0.6% in the EU

In September 2014 compared with August 2014, seasonally adjusted industrial production rose by 0.6% in both the euro area (EA18) and the EU28, according to estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In August 2014 industrial production fell by 1.4% and 1.2% respectively. In September 2014 compared with September 2013, industrial production increased by 0.6% in both the euro area and the EU28.

(Source: Eurostat)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-14-1642_en.htm

EU budget rule change to give more flexibility to national contributions

The European Commission has proposed an amendment to the rules on the adjustment of EU budget contributions from member states. This comes after the current automatic system had this year led to a demand for exceptionally large additional payments from some countries. The proposed changes to the rules would provide for an extended deadline for payment until 1 September of the next year, interest free, under exceptional circumstances. The extension would kick in, if additional payment requests are over a certain threshold.

(Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-12-11-2014.htm>

Week ahead

Council of Ministers

18/19 November

General Affairs Council

- Start preparations for the European Council on 18-19 December examining a draft annotated agenda.
- Hold a thematic debate on "An Energy Union with a forward looking climate policy."
- Have an exchange of views on the cohesion policy and 2020 mid-term review. The outcome of the discussion will feed into the synthesis report to be presented to the December European Council

21 November

Foreign Affairs Council

- Discuss a draft regulation on trade defence instruments (TDI) and a proposed regulation on public procurement (IPI).
- Discuss the current impasse in the WTO Doha Development Agenda negotiations, in particular on the Bali package and the Trade Facilitation Protocol.
- Take stock of the negotiations with the United States for a transatlantic trade and investment partnership (TTIP).
- Be due to adopt conclusions on trade, with the purpose of updating the priorities of the EU's current trade agenda. This follows up on the June 2014 European Council conclusions on the strategic agenda of key priorities for the next five years.
- Take stock of negotiations regarding the progress of EU-Japan & EU-Vietnam trade negotiations.

European Parliament

Monday 17 November

- IMCO - Simplification of the transfer of motor vehicles registered in another Member State within the Single Market – Presentation by the Commission
- ITRE - Horizon 2020 implementation - State of play from Commission
- ITRE - Establishment and operation of a market stability reserve for the Union greenhouse gas emission trading scheme and amendment of Directive – consideration of draft opinion

Thursday 20 November

- EMPL – Report from the Commission on the application of Directive on temporary agency work – exchange of views with Commission reps.