

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 16 November

Commission presents options on European carbon market

The European Commission has issued a communication aimed at addressing a growing supply-demand imbalance of emission allowances in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). In the Communication the Commission has made a proposal to revise the auction time profile and delay the auctioning of 900 million allowances in the third phase of the EU ETS, which is due to start next year. Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action, said: "The Commission wants an even more robust European carbon market that provides a stronger driving force for carbon markets elsewhere. Our carbon market is delivering emissions reductions. But because of the oversupply in the market, the ETS is not driving energy efficiency and green technologies strongly enough. This is bad for Europe's innovation and competitiveness. This is why as a first immediate step, we propose to delay the auctioning of 900 million allowances in the next three years. We must not flood a market that is already oversupplied. Market operators must have clarity before year-end on this. At the same time, the Commission presents options for possible structural measures that can provide a sustainable solution to the surplus in the longer term. " The Commission says that the surplus of emission allowances have been built up due to the reduction of industrial emissions caused by lower demand as a direct result of the economic crisis. (Source: European Commission) http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1208_en.htm

International agreement reached on braking and lane departure systems

International agreement has been reached on new internationally harmonised rules on Advanced Emergency Braking Systems (AEBS) and Lane Departure Warning Systems (LDWS) for commercial vehicles. At the United Nations' World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, the European Commission welcomed the agreement on these issues as well as the adoption of rules for a new

generation of Child Restraint Systems (CRS) called "i-Size" and rules covering the safety of batteries fitted in electric vehicles. European Commission Vice President Antonio Tajani, Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, said: "This is a further step to simplify our legislation and promote international harmonisation that facilitates access by European manufacturers to non- EU markets. We are improving road safety and simplifying legislation, all on the basis of internationally agreed standards. This is how the Cars 2020 Action Plan, presented a week ago, works in practice". (Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1209_en.htm



Commission issues call to complete internal energy market

The European Commission has issued a Communication calling on Member States to increase efforts to transpose and implement existing EU internal energy market rules. The Commission has proposed a number of actions to complete the EU internal energy market by 2014. They include implementing internal market law and enforcing competition rules; empowering consumers, including making the ability to switch suppliers easier; ensuring flexible market design; and issuing guidelines on support schemes for renewable energy. (Source: European Commission) http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1214_en.htm



ACEA publishes position on biofuel directives

ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, has published comments on the European Commission's proposal to amend both the Renewable Energy Directive and the Fuel Quality Directive. ACEA says it is pleased that the Commission has responded to ACEA's views regarding biofuels highlighted during the CARS21 process and in other forums, noting that the Commission's proposal is a first step that recognises the importance of Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) and aims to stimulate the pathways to more advanced biofuels. Outlining key comments on the proposal, ACEA has highlighted key requests it calls on legislators to consider in the legislation: the importance of high quality fuels; the definition of a sustainability pathway; the consistent application of indirect land use changes; the harmonisation of national measures; the focus on R&D; and sectoral targets. (Source: ACEA)

[http://www.acea.be/images/uploads/files/Biofuel_Directives - ACEA view press release.pdf](http://www.acea.be/images/uploads/files/Biofuel_Directives_-_ACEA_view_press_release.pdf)

Energy Efficiency Directive to enter into force on 4 December

The Energy Efficiency Directive will enter into force on 4 December following its publication in the Official Journal of the EU this week. The Directive will allow Member States until 2014 to implement and transpose the rules into national law, reporting progress every year, and issuing action plans every three years from April 2014. (Source: ENDS)

<http://www.endseurope.com/30007/eu-rules-on-energy-efficiency-published>

Week ahead

European Commission

20 November: Commission to adopt strategy on skills: The European Commission will publish its strategy on how to modernise and finance education and training systems in Europe in the future. Part of the package is the first Education and Training Monitor which reports on progress and lingering weaknesses in the fulfilment of the Framework for Cooperation in Education and Training 2020.

Council of Ministers

20 November: General Affairs Council

European Parliament (Plenary Session, Strasbourg)

19 November: Presentation of report on the implementation of the Consumer Credit Directive

21 November: Oral questions on the Climate Change Conference in Doha (COP 18)

22 November: Final vote on the EU 2013 Budget