

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 18 November

European Commission adopts 2012 Work Programme

The European Commission has adopted a Work Programme for 2012 entitled, "Delivering European renewal". The programme sets out how the Commission will build on proposals to respond to the economic crisis with further measures, and translates the political priorities identified by President Barroso in the State of the Union address into actions for the next year. The programme underlines that significant attention will have to be given next year to taking forward proposals already adopted or in the pipeline for the coming weeks. These include measures on the economy, the Single Market, and the wide range of proposals now coming forward on spending programmes to drive reform and renewal. New proposals will build on this programme to reinforce the drive to job-creating growth. The main priorities of the Commission are listed as; building a Europe of stability and responsibility, building a Union of growth and solidarity, and giving the EU an effective voice in the wider world. (Source: Europa)

http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/index_en.htm

European new car registrations decreased 1.8% in October

ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers Association, has announced that European new car registrations decreased by 1.8% in October, totalling 1,005,976 units. French and British markets performed similarly, posting a 2.4% and 2.6% growth respectively, demand in Germany, the largest market, remained stable (+0.6%), while results in Italy (-5.5%) and Spain (-6.7%) were negative, leading to the overall 1.8% decline. On the year to date registrations are down 1.2% on 2010 to 11,126,436 units. From January to October, Germany was the only major market to post significant growth (+9.8%). France saw its demand slightly increase by 0.4%, while the UK (-

4.5%), Italy (-10.8%) and Spain (-19.7%) all faced a downturn. (Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/passenger_cars_registrations_down_1.2_from_january_to_october



European electric vehicle working groups planned

The introduction and adoption of electrical cars has received a boost with an international agreement promoted by the European Union, the United States and Japan. The agreement calls for the partners to cooperate on convergence of regulatory obligations related to electric vehicles in the global context. This aims to lead to cost savings through economies of scale for automotive manufacturers, who currently only produce relatively small volumes of electric vehicles in different world regions. The agreement is therefore seen as key in the context of economic recovery and general cost-sensitiveness of the industry. Taking into account that the rules for electromobility technologies are currently being developed on both sides of the Atlantic and Asia, the cooperation is particularly timely as it offers a unique opportunity to develop common approaches. Under the proposed cooperating agreement two informal working groups on electric vehicles will be set up under the 1998 Agreement on Global Technical Regulations. The working groups are open to all countries that are contracting parties to the relevant UN Agreement, including India and China. The first group will address the safety aspects of electric vehicles and their components, including the battery. It will cover the

safety of occupants against electric shocks in-use, while recharging as well as after an accident. The second group will focus on environmental aspects of regulations applied to electric vehicles. The aim of both groups is to exchange information on current and future regulatory initiatives in this field, to avoid unnecessary differences between regulatory approaches and, where possible, develop common requirements in the form of a Global Technical Regulation (GTR). (Source: European Commission) http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/automotive/technical-harmonisation/global-harmonisation/index_en.htm



Mario Monti appointed as new Italian Prime Minister

Mario Monti, a former European Commissioner, has been appointed as Prime Minister by Italian President Giorgio Napolitano. It is hoped that Mr. Monti will restore market confidence in an economy whose debt burden is thought to be too big for the euro bloc to bail out. Mr. Monti has already announced sweeping reforms to respond to the crisis, stating that his government would work to change Italy's labour market and pension system, fight tax evasion and make it easier for businesses to grow. (Source: Euractiv) <http://www.euractiv.com/euro-finance/monti-unveils-crisis-strategy-france-spain-strain-news-509055>

European industrial production down 1.3%

Figures published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, show that industrial production in the EU fell 1.3% in September compared to August, whilst within the eurozone production was down 2%. However production figures for September 2011 compared with September 2010 showed positive growth, up 2.2% in both areas. (Source: Europa) <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/11/165&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity

Council of Ministers

Monday Thursday 24 November

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council

European Parliament (Meeting of Committees – Brussels)

Monday 21 November

ENVI – A Roadmap for Moving to a Competitive Low Carbon Economy in 2050

TRAN - Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – To-wards a competitive and resource efficient transport system

ITRE - Preparation of the Low Carbon Energy Roadmap 2050