

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 20 November

Commission adopts State of the Energy Union

On Wednesday 18 November, Vice-President for the Energy Union, Maroš Šefčovič, presented his [State of the Energy Union](#) which was adopted by the College of Commissioners. It was presented as part of the Commission's "Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward Looking Climate Change Policy" adopted on 25 February 2015. It highlights the progress made over the past nine months and the next actions in six key areas for the year 2016:

- Decarbonisation;
- Energy efficiency;
- Creating an internal energy market;
- Energy security;
- Research, innovation and competitiveness;
- and implementation of the Energy Union.

(Source: [European Commission](#))

Deal reached on 2016 EU budget

On 14 November 2015, the Council and the European Parliament reached an agreement on the EU budget for 2016. Meeting in the Conciliation Committee they agreed to set the total level of commitments at €155.00 billion and of payments at €143.89 billion. In a special effort in response to the migration crisis the Council and the Parliament agreed on more than €2 billion in commitments to provide emergency assistance to the member states hardest hit and to non-EU countries hosting refugees, as well as for humanitarian aid. The budget deal also reflects the importance that the Council and the Parliament attach to promoting growth and creating jobs: commitments for the EU research framework programme Horizon 2020 will reach €9.54 billion, which is a €31.8 million increase compared to the draft budget proposed by the Commission. The Council and the Parliament reaffirmed that reducing youth unemployment remains a high political priority and committed to making the best possible use of the youth employment initiative.

The deal also includes a set of measures amounting in total to €698.0 million to support European farmers to respond to the extension of the Russian embargo on imports of certain agricultural products from the EU and to the difficult situation notably in the dairy and pigmeat sector. As regards the commitment made by the EU institutions in 2013 to reduce their staff by 5% over the period 2013-2017 the Parliament promised to achieve this target by 2019 while excluding temporary posts of political groups from the scope of the reduction obligation. The next steps are for the Council and the Parliament to formally adopt the compromise. The Council is due to proceed to this final step on 24 November and the Parliament on 25 November.

(Source: [European Council](#))



Week ahead

European Council

Thursday 26 November – TTE Council

- The Council is expected to reach a general approach on the proposal for a regulation setting a framework for energy efficiency labelling.

Thursday 26 November – Foreign Affairs Council

- Discussions on the 10th WTO conference.
- Discussion on TTIP

European Parliament (plenary)

Tuesday 24 November

- Commission statement - Decision adopted on the State of the Energy Union