

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 23 November

### EU budget negotiations commence

European leaders are meeting to discuss and negotiate the EU's 2014-2020 budget known as the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF). The European Commission presented its proposals for the MFF on 29 June 2011, calling for the budget to be increased to €1.025 trillion, up from the current €976 billion (a 4.8% increase, above the average 2% inflation recorded over the past decade). The Cypriot presidency has also stated that its goal is to reach an agreement on the MFF by the end of 2012, in line with the European Council conclusion of June 2012. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council has proposed a budget of €973 billion, however, there is little agreement amongst member states on what the final figure should be, with the UK and France holding opposing views. Negotiations are set to continue, however sources have stated that there is little hope of an agreement being reached this year and the likelihood is that discussions will continue at the next summit in early 2013. (Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/euro-finance/positions-quite-far-apart-budget-news-516229>

### EU and Canada move towards conclusion of trade negotiations

EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht and Canadian Minister Ed Fast have met in Brussels, to bring the negotiations on the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement towards closure. Commissioner De Gucht and Minister Fast held in-depth discussions on the trade deal and made substantial progress. Both sides will now instruct their negotiators to narrow the gaps on the outstanding issues, aiming for a deal in the coming weeks. Commissioner De Gucht stated: "I am pleased that our meeting at a political level has provided the momentum needed to spur on the negotiations into the home strait. It's clear that there has been significant progress but some important work remains to be done". Both Commissioner De

Gucht and Minister Fast decided to meet again very shortly and to continue discussions until an agreement is reached. Canada is the EU's eleventh most important trading partner whereas the EU, with its 27 states, is Canada's second-largest trading partner, after the United States. An economic study jointly released by the EU and Canada in October 2008 showed that a comprehensive trade agreement could increase two-way bilateral trade by €25.7 billion. (Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-12-1258\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1258_en.htm?locale=en)



### Commissioner Hedegaard speaks at EUCAR annual conference

The European Council for Automotive R&D (EUCAR) has held its Annual Reception and Conference in Autoworld, Brussels, highlighting how collaborative research and innovation through the EU's future Horizon 2020 Framework Programme can support the achievement of societal objectives and a strong European automotive industrial sector. Speaking at the event Connie Hedegaard, EU Commissioner for Climate Action emphasised that EU research and innovation should contribute to the twin goals of climate protection and competitiveness of the automotive industry. Commissioner Hedegaard explained how investment in automotive research and innovation (R&I) through Horizon 2020 is essential to ensure the availability of technologies that significantly reduce fuel consumption and CO2 emissions from passenger and commercial vehicles, stating: "We can

see tangible results of the EU automotive industry's efforts in research and innovation, also due to substantial EU funding under the current research programme. The average CO2 emissions of the new fleet have dropped from just below 160 gCO2/km in 2007 to 135g/km in 2011 and the supply of more fuel-efficient vehicles is continuously increasing. We want industry to maintain these efforts and the Commission's proposal for Horizon 2020 clearly reflects this ambition". (Source: EUCAR)  
<http://www.eucar.be/news-and-events/Press%20Release%20EUCAR%20RC%202012>

## Tonio Borg secures MEP backing to replace Commissioner Dalli

Tonio Borg, Malta's candidate to replace resigning Commissioner John Dalli, was supported by MEPs on Wednesday with 386 votes in favour, 281 against and 28 abstentions. Mr Borg's approval should now be finalised by the Council in the coming days. He will then be able to take up his post as Commissioner for health and consumer affairs.  
(Source: European Parliament)  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20121116IPR55761/html/Borg-secures-EP-backing-as-Commissioner-after-week-of-tension>



## Week ahead

### European Commission

28 November: Annual Growth Survey  
28 November: Commission annual report on the integration of the Single Market

### Council of Ministers

26-27 November:  
The Council, in public deliberation, will be briefed by the presidency on the state of play on the proposal for a regulation establishing the "ERASMUS FOR ALL" programme, presented by the Commission in December 2011.

### European Parliament (Committee week)

26 November  
INTA: Trade agreement between the EU, Columbia and Peru – exchange of views  
TRAN: TEN-T – exchange of views  
27 November  
TRAN/ITRE: Connecting Europe Facility – vote  
TRAN: Development of the Trans-European Transport Network – vote  
28 November  
EMPL: Minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risk arising from physical agents (EMF) – consideration of compromise amendments  
ITRE: The Energy roadmap 2050 – consideration of amendments  
ITRE: Horizon 2020 package – vote  
29 November  
ENVI: Air quality directive – Nitrogen Dioxide – oral questions