

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 7 December

### Commissioner Tajani to meet with automotive industry

European Commission Vice-President Antonio Tajani, Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship will meet with eight CEOs representing vehicle manufacturers, Clepa and the deputy Secretary General of a trade-union body at three meetings on the current situation in the European car industry. The purpose of these meetings is to identify what can be done for the automotive industry and its workers in order to minimise the social impact of current restructuring. A parallel aim is to ensure that current restructuring decisions will enable the Commission to safeguard a healthy and competitive industrial base in Europe, through investment in innovation and if necessary, the judicious use of state-aid. All stakeholders are actively involved in CARS 21 process and strongly support the CARS 2020 Action Plan that was adopted on 8 November. In the light of recent restructuring decisions, Vice-President Tajani took the initiative to organise discussions to help formulate a short-term response to the current crisis situation faced by the European automotive industry. The results of discussions will feed into the preparation of the Competitiveness Council on 10 December.

(Source: European Commission)

[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/tajani/headlines/news/2012/12/20121206\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/tajani/headlines/news/2012/12/20121206_en.htm)

### ACEA hold 2012 European Commercial Vehicle event

ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, has hosted their 2012 commercial vehicle event in Brussels entitled 'Moving with the times: How can policy reflect changing transport demands?'. At the event the commercial vehicle industry cautioned EU policy makers against the risk of pitting one transport mode against the other, with Harrie Schippers, President of DAF Trucks and Chairman of ACEA's Commercial Vehicle Board stating: "The increasing demand for transport and the need to protect the environment pose a challenge to the entire

transport sector, our governments and the energy sector alike. Limiting mobility, however, is not an option, so more flexible transport solutions will be needed in the future". Attending the event were Siim Kallas, European Commissioner for Transport, and Günther Oettinger, European Commissioner for Energy. ACEA has also announced that its Board of Directors has reelected Sergio Marchionne, CEO of Fiat S.p.A., as the association's President for 2013. This will be his second consecutive term heading the association. (Source: ACEA)

[http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news\\_detail/press\\_release\\_europes\\_commercial\\_vehicle\\_industry\\_urges\\_policy\\_makers\\_to](http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/press_release_europes_commercial_vehicle_industry_urges_policy_makers_to)



### Commission publishes findings from 2012 R&D scoreboard

The European Commission has published the findings from its 2012 'EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard'. The global top 50 includes 15 EU companies, 18 US firms and 12 from Japan. Toyota tops the ranking, with Volkswagen the top EU company in third place (€7.2 billion invested). Recently released Eurostat data shows that combined EU public and private research spending increased to 2.03% of GDP in 2011, from 2.01% in 2010. This was mainly due to increased private sector spending. Total investment by companies in the scoreboard shows that the US is still ahead of the EU, explained by the higher number of high-tech firms in the US (€178.4 billion versus €144.6 billion). Companies showing the largest R&D expenditure increases among the top 100

are in the ICT sector, with large jumps in levels of R&D investment also coming from the automobile and parts sectors, some based in the EU such as BMW (21.6%) and Renault (19.4%). In the EU, R&D growth figures in 2011 are to a large extent driven by the automobile sector (16.2% growth), which accounts for the biggest share of R&D investment in the EU (25%). Commenting on the figures, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science stated: "Knowledge is the lifeblood of European competitiveness, so the increase in R&D investment by EU companies is a call to arms in our battle for growth and jobs. We now need to match private sector ambition with increased investment in R&D at national and European levels. EU leaders should send a strong signal by approving an ambitious budget for Horizon 2020, our future programme for research and innovation". (Source: European Commission) [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-12-1324\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1324_en.htm?locale=en)

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## Commission launches EU Skills Panorama to tackle skills mismatches

The European Commission has launched the EU Skills Panorama, a website presenting quantitative and qualitative information on short- and medium-term skills needs, skills supply and skills mismatches. The Panorama, drawing on data and forecasts compiled at EU and member state level, aims to highlight the fastest growing occupations as well as the top 'bottleneck' occupations with high numbers of unfilled vacancies. Currently, there are around two million job vacancies across the EU despite high levels of unemployment. The website contains detailed information sector by sector, profession by profession and country by country. Commenting on the launch, Laszlo Andor, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion commented: "The EU Skills Panorama is the first European tool to give access with just a click to relevant information about trends in skills requirements in all EU countries. This online information tool presents comprehensive information on skills mismatches and will ultimately help to direct jobseekers to the most demanded occupations throughout Europe". The Skills Panorama illustrates that the occupations with the most unfilled vacancies in the EU today are those of finance and sales professionals. Other shortages most frequently reported concern biologists, pharmacologists, medical doctors and related professionals, nurses, ICT computing professionals and engineers. The website

indicates that the strongest mismatch between skills and labour market needs exists in Lithuania, Bulgaria, Belgium, Hungary and Ireland, whereas in Portugal, Denmark and the Netherlands the situation is much better. The EU Skills Panorama will be regularly updated with the latest data.

(Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-12-1329\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1329_en.htm?locale=en)

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## Week ahead

### European Commission

No relevant activity

### Council of Ministers

10-11 December: Competitiveness Council  
Ministers will exchange views on the European industrial policy and its contribution to growth and economic recovery with a view to adopting conclusions. They will address the specific situation of the automotive industry.

11 December: General Affairs Council  
Ministers will prepare the European Council meeting scheduled for 13-14 December and in particular discuss the draft conclusions to be submitted to the EU heads of state or government.

### European Parliament (Plenary Session - Strasbourg)

10 December: Completing the digital single market  
10 December: Financing SME trade and investment  
11 December: European Patent