

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 12 December

EU budget 2015 gets Council approval

Negotiators from the European Parliament and EU governments have reached a deal on the EU's 2015 budget and amendments to the 2014 budget. Spending in 2015 has been set at £111.2bn. The 2015 budget included €8bn to launch a €315bn investment plan announced by Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker. Most of that €315bn will be in the form of loan guarantees or private investment. An EU Task Force on Investment has identified 2000 potential projects worth €1.3tn, including improvements to Europe's infrastructure in areas such as transport, green energy, schools and flood defences. The Commission says more than €500bn worth of projects could be launched over the next three years, and some could be funded by Mr Juncker's scheme. The investment proposals were set out in a [report](#) on Tuesday, compiled by experts from the Commission, European Investment Bank (EIB) and national bodies. The report will be discussed by EU leaders at a Brussels summit on 18 - 19 December. (Source: BBC and European Commission) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-30392963>

€550 million EU funding available for transport and energy research

Five calls for transport and energy research proposals opened on Wednesday 10 December in the fields of mobility for growth, competitive low carbon energy and smart cities and communities. Applicants have a few months to submit their project proposals for a total funding of more than €550 million. The evaluation of the transport research proposals is expected to start in May-June 2015. (Source: European Commission – INEA) http://inea.ec.europa.eu/en/news_events/newsroom/over-%80550-million-eu-funding-available-for-transport-and-energy-research.htm

Agreement reached on Weights and Dimensions Directive

On Wednesday 10 December, the European Parliament and the Council reached an informal agreement on the revision of the Weight and Dimensions Directive aimed at reducing the impact of heavy goods vehicles on the environment and aimed at improving road safety. Under the compromise, the legislation on the new safer designs will be delayed until 2019 and implemented in 2022. The agreement must now be confirmed by Parliament and Council. ACEA claims that the revision could have vast benefits from environmental, user comfort and road safety perspectives. (Source: ALDE and ACEA) <http://www.alde.eu/nc/press/press-and-release-news/press-release/article/paving-the-way-for-trucks-of-the-future-44355/> <http://www.acea.be/industry-topics/tag/category/weights-and-dimensions>



EU commissioners sworn in

On Wednesday 10 December, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and the Members of the College of Commissioners took their formal oath of office in Luxembourg, at the European Court of Justice. They pledged to respect the Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, and to carry out their responsibilities in independence and in the general interest of the Union. (Source: European Commission) http://ec.europa.eu/news/2014/12/20141210_en.htm

Coreper endorses agreement with Parliament on eCall

On 10 December the Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) endorsed an agreement with the European Parliament on type-approval requirements for fitting eCall devices in new motor vehicles. The EU-wide eCall system is designed to speed up emergency services in road accidents. New vehicles will have to be fitted with wireless devices to trigger a distress signal to the 112 emergency call number. As from 31 March 2018, car manufacturers will have to equip all new models with an in-vehicle technology that will communicate with the 112-based eCall interoperable service. The infrastructure for the eCall system should be in place by 1 October 2017. The Coreper decision confirms a provisional agreement reached between the Presidency of the Council and the European Parliament representatives on 1 December 2014. The Council is expected to formalise its political agreement on 17 December and the Parliament to confirm it through a vote in the second reading in early 2015.

(Source: Presidency of the Council of the EU)

http://italia2014.eu/media/4118/ecall_emergency-call-system-in-road-accidents_press-release.pdf

France and Germany to develop key points for future CO2 regime

On 2 December the Franco-German Financial and Economic Council met to discuss future developments. Regarding electric mobility and mobile energy storage, both countries set out to bring together stakeholders from industry, innovative SMEs and research to ensure the application of battery cell technologies that deliver the best results on measures such as performance, range, cost and longevity. At the end of 2013, agreement was reached at EU level on CO2 emission standards for cars from 2021.

Targets and developments beyond that are surrounded by considerable uncertainty. France and Germany plan on developing key points for a future CO2 emission regime for vehicles from 2030, to be discussed with European partners.

(Source: Ministère des finances et des comptes publics; Ministère de l'Economie, de l'Industrie et du Numérique)

<http://www.economie.gouv.fr/files/2014-12-02-dffw-strengthening-investment.pdf>

ACEA President re-elected

The Board of Directors of the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) announced on 5 December the re-election of Carlos Ghosn, Chairman and CEO of Renault, as its President for 2015. ACEA is planning on calling for a more specific competitiveness strategy for the automotive industry in Europe which could support the Commission's Jobs, Growth and Investment Package.

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/carlos-ghosn-re-elected-president-of-acea-for-2015>

Week ahead

European Parliament

Monday 15 December

- ECON – extraordinary meeting
- BUDG – extraordinary meeting: new general budget of the EU for the financial year 2015

Monday 15 – Thursday 18 December

- Plenary Session in Strasbourg

Council of the European Union

Wednesday 17 December

Environment Council

European Commission

Wednesday 17 December

- Adoption of the 2015 Work Programme

European Council

Thursday 18 – Friday 19 December

- European Council Meeting – Economic and Social Policy - the Council will look at further efforts to foster growth, jobs and European competitiveness and set new orientations