

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 15 June

Vince Cable addresses SMMT International Automotive Summit

Dr Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, delivered the keynote speech at the SMMT International Automotive Summit, held on Tuesday 12 June. Dr Cable commended the UK workforce for weathering the economic storm and transforming the UK automotive industry to one of the most productive in Europe. He drew attention to the £5.5bn investment committed to the UK in the last 18 months, highlighting that much of this investment benefitted from government backing. This 'business friendly approach' was a theme for his address in which Dr Cable emphasised the importance of collaboratively supporting key industries, highlighting the Automotive Council as a prime example of industry and government working together to achieve common goals. Mr. Ian Robertson, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG, also delivered a speech at the summit, where he announced that new generation of high-tech, 3-cylinder petrol engines for the future BMW i8 plug-in hybrid sports car will be built exclusively at the BMW engine plant at Hams Hall, near Birmingham. The SMMT International Automotive Summit featured more than 40 speakers from automotive, academia, government, new technology, media, retail, supply chain and the finance community. Discussion focused on the future potential of UK automotive, challenges to be addressed and how to capitalise on changing trends in technology and consumer preferences. (Source: BIS)

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/speeches/vince-cable-smmt-automotive-summit-2012>



George Osborne & Mervyn King deliver annual Mansion House speeches

Sir Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England, and George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, have delivered their annual Mansion House speeches. Mervyn King announced that the Bank of England will implement two new stimulus packages. Firstly, the Bank and the Treasury will work together on a 'funding for lending' scheme that would provide funding to banks for an extended period of several years, at rates below current market rates. It would also link to the performance of banks in sustaining or expanding their lending to the UK non-financial sector during the present period of heightened uncertainty. Secondly, the Bank of England will activate the Extended Collateral Term Repo Facility scheme – this will allow auctions of short-term sterling liquidity to be held at any time. The Bank will start [holding auctions of sterling liquidity](http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/Pages/speeches/2012/587.aspx) with a maturity of six months. George Osborne MP announced the publication of [government's White Paper](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_47_12.htm) setting out how government plans to implement the Independent Commission on Banking's recommendations. Mr Osborne further announced that government will amend the Financial Services Bill to give the Financial Policy Committee a secondary objective to support the economic policy of the government. (Source: HM Treasury)

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_47_12.htm

<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/Pages/speeches/2012/587.aspx>

SMMT gives evidence at Transport Select Committee

SMMT Chief Executive, Paul Everitt, alongside industry colleagues gave oral evidence to the Transport Select Committee's inquiry into low carbon vehicles. Graham Smith OBE, Managing Director, Toyota Motor Europe London Office and Ian Allen, Manager of Environmental Strategy, Vauxhall Motors, joined Mr Everitt on the panel to answer a number of questions around the take up of low carbon vehicles

and government's approach to improving and supporting the ultra-low carbon vehicle market. Transport Minister Norman Baker MP also gave evidence, answering questions on the take up of the Plug-In Car Grant and government's plug-in vehicle infrastructure strategy. (Source: Transport Select Committee) <http://www.parliament.uk/transcom>

UK automotive industry targets all-time manufacturing records

Figures announced by SMMT show that the UK could surpass the 1972 record of 1.92 million cars produced, with over two million units rolling off domestic manufacturing lines in 2015. This landmark relies on eurozone stability and ongoing government support and collaboration. Achieving annual car manufacturing volumes in excess of two million units would equate to an increase in manufacturing output of more than 50% over 2011's level of 1.3 million units. These forecasts come on the back of the May 2012 UK automotive manufacturing figures, which show that UK automotive plants manufactured 141,146 cars in May, the month's highest output since 2004, with year-to-date volumes also up, reaching 17.3%. In addition, UK engine manufacturing rose 13.4% in May, as year-to-date volumes topped the one million mark. However, CV output was subdued, with 9,445 vehicles produced, equalling a 7.4% decline. (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2012/06/smmt-uk-automotive-manufacturing-uk-car-manufacturing-continues-to-rise/>

Vehicle registrations up in May 2012

Figures released by SMMT show that new car registrations rose 7.9% in May, 162,288 units, the largest percentage rise for 23 months. In addition year-to-date figures are up 2.6% on 2011, reaching 868,166 units. The commercial vehicle market also showed growth in May, up 10% with 25,327 registrations, up 3.7% on the rolling year to 294,653. The bus and coach sector added to the positive news, growing 118.6% to 883 registrations in May, and up 56.5% for January-May. (Source: SMMT)

<https://www.smmt.co.uk/members-lounge/member-services/market-intelligence/vehicle-data/monthly-automotive-data/>

BIS & DFE announce independent apprenticeships review

The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, and the Department for Education have announced that entrepreneur Doug Richard has been appointed to undertake an independent review of apprenticeships in England to ensure that the future needs of the economy are effectively met. The Richard Review of Apprenticeships, is due to be published in Autumn 2012, and will look at how to build upon the record success of apprenticeships in recent years, focusing on a number of key questions:

- What should the core components of an apprenticeship be - to meet the needs of employers (large and small), individuals, and the wider economy?
- Who should apprenticeships be for - which types of learners and employers can benefit most from apprenticeships?
- Are there elements of apprenticeships which should be simplified or stripped back?
- Are the qualifications which are undertaken as part of an apprenticeship sufficiently rigorous, and recognised and valued by employers?
- How should delivery arrangements ensure all that apprenticeships provide significant new learning and acquisition of new skills, rather than the accreditation of existing ones?
- Are there opportunities to improve the impact and value for money of public investment in apprenticeships?

(Source: BIS)

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2012/Jun/richard-review-of-apprenticeships>

Week ahead

Commons Chamber

Thursday 21 June - Transport questions (9:30am)

Commons Committees

Tuesday 19 June

Energy & Climate Change Committee (10:15am, Wilson room & 4:05pm, Grimond room)

Subject: Draft Energy Bill

Wednesday 20 June

Science & Technology Committee (9:15am, room 8)

Subject: Bridging the Valley of Death

House of Lords

No relevant activity