

Business Secretary speaks at SMMT event promoting UK automotive manufacturing

The Secretary of State for Business, Sajid Javid MP, spoke at an SMMT event promoting the UK car industry ahead of next week's Frankfurt International Motor Show. The Business Secretary stated: "The automotive industry is a UK success story with government and industry working closely to boost productivity and growth. Not only do we build cars extremely well, but our research and development and design capabilities are equally as impressive. Together we are shaping a 21st Century sector that is going from strength to strength." Ten vehicles from the broad spectrum of Britain's thriving automotive industry were on display at the event, attended by senior executives from across the industry. (Source: [SMMT](#))



Sadiq Khan elected as Labour's 2016 London mayoral candidate

Labour has elected Sadiq Khan as its candidate to be the next mayor of London later, 24 hours before choosing a new leader and deputy leader. Sadiq Khan beat fellow candidates Tessa Jowell, David Lammy, Gareth Thomas, Diane Abbott and Christian Wolmar and will represent Labour in next May's

election. The Conservatives have yet to choose their candidate. (Source: [BBC](#))

EU referendum: Cameron suffers Commons defeat over 'purdah' rules

The new government has suffered its first defeat in the House of Commons, over changes to rules governing the in/out EU referendum campaign. Ministers wanted to amend so-called "purdah" rules which limit government activity during the campaign period. But rebel Tory MPs, along with Labour and the SNP, ensured the move was blocked by 312 votes to 285. Earlier, government conceded a rebel Tory amendment preventing a snap poll from being held. David Cameron had already made a number of concessions on the bill in response to Eurosceptic concerns government could use the "Whitehall machine" to promote continued EU membership. Ministers agreed to restore purdah restrictions for the referendum but with certain exceptions to allow ministers and others to conduct day-to-day business with the EU during the campaign period. Arguing for a partial suspension of the normal rules, Europe Minister David Lidington said it would provide "greater clarity and certainty" on what issues are covered by purdah and what issues would be open to a legal challenge. He concluded by saying the package of proposals put forward by the government was "balanced and fair", and one in which the whole country could have confidence. (Source: [BBC](#))

New poll shows UK would vote to leave EU

A new opinion poll has shown that more Britons want to leave the European Union than want to stay ahead of a referendum to be held by 2017. The poll is the first to put the EU exit camp in the lead. 43% of respondents said they would vote to leave, 40% would vote to stay and 17% are still undecided, according to the poll by Survation research agency for the Mail on Sunday newspaper. Survation's last poll published at the beginning of July showed 45% in favour of

staying, 37% for leaving and 18% undecided. The poll also showed that 22% of those who wanted Britain to stay said they could change their mind if the migrants crisis worsened.

(Source: [Euractiv](#))

UK bus and coach market increases 97.9% in August

The UK bus and coach market increased by 97.9% in August with 469 units registered. Growth was driven by surge in demand for double-deck and converted buses, up 437.5% and 100% respectively. The year-to-date figures remains strong with overall registrations reaching 5,796 – a 19.9% increase on 2014. (Source: [SMMT](#))

Low carbon vehicles get government backing at LCV2015

Speaking at LCV2015, the UK's premier low carbon vehicle event, Anna Soubry MP, Minister for Small Business, Industry and Enterprise, announced that an automotive consortium led by Warwick Manufacturing Group had won a government backed £10 million Ultra Low Emission Battery Prize, which incentivises the development of the next generation of batteries for electric and hybrid vehicles in the UK. Together, manufacturers Jaguar Land Rover, JCB, Alexander Dennis and Ariel Motors, successfully demonstrated the ability to build UK capability in the development of high voltage automotive battery packs. It will lay the foundations for a new UK automotive supply chain over the next 12 months. The Minister also unveiled details of a £20 million low carbon vehicle R&D initiative led by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV). The 'Seeding Tomorrow's Vehicle Technologies Today' competition will support the development of new technology for road vehicles aimed at delivering significant reductions in CO2 and other emissions.

(Source: [BIS](#))

£5 million greener bus fund announced

Local authorities across England will be able to bid for a share of £5 million funding to fit buses with green

technology and offer better journeys. The Clean Bus Technology Fund 2015 will allow local authorities to bid for up to £500,000 to retrofit hundreds of buses to reduce NOx (nitrogen oxides) emissions and improve air quality. The fund is open for bids until the end of October, with a particular focus on pollution hotspots in cities and urban areas. The winners will be announced towards the end of the year. This new £5 million scheme will add to the £20 million government has invested since 2011, together with some significant contributions from local authorities and bus operators, in similar local retrofit schemes for different types of vehicles which have significantly improved air quality. So far, around 1,500 buses have been retrofitted in London and in other parts of England and last year's Clean Vehicle Technology Fund provided over £8 million to councils to upgrade over 1,200 vehicles – vans, taxis, buses and even fire engines.

Air quality grant scheme

Government also launched the £500,000 Air Quality Grant Scheme for 2015/16 this week. This scheme supports local authority projects to improve air quality with successful schemes previously encouraging local cycling projects, developing and implementing local low emission strategies and local engagement and awareness raising initiatives. (Source: [DfT](#))

Week ahead

Commons Chamber

Monday 14 September

- Trade Union Bill (2nd reading)

Tuesday 15 September

- Business, Innovation and Skills questions

Commons Committees

Tuesday 15 September

- Energy and Climate Change Committee: 2015 Progress Report

Wednesday 16 September

- European Scrutiny Committee: The UK Government's renegotiation of EU membership

Lords Chamber

Wednesday 16 September

- Draft Consumer Rights Act 2015: Motion to approve
- European Union (Approvals) Bill: Third reading

From Friday 18 September, the House of Commons and the House of Lords will be in recess until 12 October.