

## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 30 September

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### Labour leader Ed Milliband calls for an end to the UK's "fast buck" culture

Labour Leader Ed Milliband, has delivered his keynote speech to the Labour Party conference, where he has called for an end to the "fast buck" culture, which he claimed has created a "quiet crisis" in the UK. A key initiative proposed in his address was the introduction of tax incentives for companies that make a contribution to the economy through training and long-term investment. Mr Milliband drew a direct distinction between companies like Rolls Royce, which he termed "producers", and companies such as Southern Cross care homes, which he termed "predators", stating: "We must learn the lesson that growth is built on sand if it comes from our predators and not our producers". Mr Milliband also reiterated that he is not anti-business, stating that he is "Pro-business on the side of the small businesses, pro-business on the side of high value manufacturing, pro-business on the side of the British company losing out to its competitors abroad". (Source: Labour)

<http://www.labour.org.uk/home>

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### SMMT host breakfast roundtable at Labour Party Conference

SMMT hosted a breakfast roundtable at the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool, continuing a series of fringe events designed to emphasise UK automotive's central role in leading economic growth. SMMT and industry representatives met key Labour MPs, policy advisors, and industry stakeholders including Andrew Miller MP, Chair of the Science and Technology Select Committee, Nia Griffith MP, Shadow Business Minister and Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP, Shadow Financial Secretary to the Treasury. Shadow Business Minister, Ian Lucas MP opened the roundtable debate, focusing on measures to enhance the global competitiveness of industry and address the economic challenges ahead. Mr Lucas stressed the need for

government to enable industry to secure long-term investment that can be fed directly into R&D and building-up the skills base throughout the UK's supply chain. SMMT Chief Executive, Paul Everitt, spoke on behalf of industry, drawing attention to the strong position held by the sector in rebalancing the economy and stimulating growth. SMMT called for a cross-party approach to tackling the economic challenges ahead and sought to influence the Party's policy review and strengthen Labour commitment to an investment-led recovery. Also contributing to the discussion were Richard Burden MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Motor Group, Jack Dromey MP, Shadow Communities Minister, as well as Kelvin Hopkins, MP for Luton North and John Spellar MP, Shadow Foreign Minister. (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2011/09/smmt-meets-senior-labour-mps-at-party-conference-in-liverpool/>



### DfT to launch a consultation on increasing the speed limit on motorways

Transport Secretary Philip Hammond, has announced that the Department for Transport will be consulting on whether the speed limit on England and Wales' motorways should be increased from 70mph to 80mph. Mr Hammond stated that the current limit was out of date due to "huge advances in safety and motoring technology" and that England and Wales' roads should be the arteries of a healthy economy, stating: "Increasing the motorway speed limit to

80mph would generate economic benefits of hundreds of millions of pounds through shorter journey times". The consultation will begin later this year, with a view to raising the speed limit in 2013. (Source: BBC News)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-15116064>



## DfT publish "Reported road casualties in Great Britain: annual report 2010"

The Department for Transport has published its annual report into reported road casualties in Great Britain. The statistics show that there were a total of 208,648 casualties of all severities in road accidents reported to the police in 2010, 6% lower than in 2009. 1,850 people were killed, 17% lower than in 2009 and 22,660 were seriously injured, down 8 per cent. Motor vehicle traffic fell by 2 per cent over the same period. The number of fatalities fell for almost all types of road user, with a fall of 21 per cent for car occupants, 19 per cent for pedestrians, 15 per cent for motorcyclists. Pedal cycle fatalities rose by 7 per cent. In 2010, the economic welfare cost of reported road accidents was estimated to be around £15 billion. (Source: DfT)

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/news/press-releases/dft-press-20110929>

## Party Conferences

### Conservatives

2 - 5 October, Manchester

Conference venue: Manchester Central Conference Centre, Windmill St, Manchester

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## Week ahead

### House of Commons

The House of Commons is in recess. The House will next sit on Monday 10 October 2011.

### House of Lords

The House of Lords is in recess. The House will next sit on Monday 10 October 2011.