

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 24 January

### Commission adopts European Industrial Strategy communication

The European Commission has adopted a communication for a European Industrial Renaissance urging member states to recognise the central importance of industry for creating jobs and growth and to mainstream industry-related competitiveness concerns across all policy areas. The communication calls on the Council and the Parliament to adopt proposals on energy, transport, space and digital communications networks as well as implement and enforce legislation to complete the internal market. Furthermore the Commission has stated that industrial modernisation must be pursued by investing in innovation, resource efficiency, new technologies, skills and access to finance, accelerated by the use of dedicated EU funds. The communication aims to promote a more business friendly Europe through actions to simplify the legislative framework and improve the efficiency of public administration at EU, national and regional levels. Easier access to third country markets through harmonisation of international standards, open public procurement, patent protection and economic diplomacy are also key issues. European Commission Vice President Antonio Tajani, responsible for industry and entrepreneurship, said: "Europe is still far from the 20% target of industry's share in Europe's GDP by 2020. That is why industrial competitiveness has to be at the heart of the March 2014 European Council political agenda. With today's initiative the Commission sends a clear signal that urgent reindustrialisation and modernisation of our economy is indispensable if we are to create new jobs. We need a strong commitment at the EU and national level to ensure coherence and prioritisation of all instruments at our disposal. An industrial strategy must encompass many other sectors, as they are increasingly inter-connected and have a major impact on industrial success."

(Source: European Commission)

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/mission-growth/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/mission-growth/index_en.htm)



### Commission presents new framework on climate and energy for 2030

The European Commission has presented a new framework on climate and energy for 2030 which calls for: a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 40% below the 1990 level; an EU-wide binding target for renewable energy of at least 27%; renewed ambitions for energy efficiency policies; a new governance system; and a set of new indicators to ensure a competitive and secure energy system. The 2030 framework aims to ensure regulatory certainty for investors and a coordinated approach among member states, leading to the development of new technologies. The framework aims to drive continued progress towards a low-carbon economy and a competitive and secure energy system that ensures affordable energy for all consumers, increases the security of the EU's energy supplies, reduces dependence on energy imports and creates new opportunities for growth and jobs, by taking into account potential price impacts on the longer term. It is accompanied by a legislative proposal for a market stability reserve for the EU emissions trading system (EU ETS) starting in 2021, to improve its robustness. A report on energy prices and costs in Europe, published alongside the Communication, suggests that the rising energy prices can be partly mitigated by ensuring cost effective energy and climate policies, competitive energy markets and improved energy efficiency. Commenting on the framework, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso said:

"Climate action is central for the future of our planet, while a truly European energy policy is key for our competitiveness. Today's package proves that tackling the two issues simultaneously is not contradictory, but mutually reinforcing. It is in the EU's interest to build a job-rich economy that is less dependent on imported energy through increased efficiency and greater reliance on domestically produced clean energy. An ambitious 40% greenhouse reduction target for 2030 is the most cost-effective milestone in our path towards a low-carbon economy. And the renewables target of at least 27% is an important signal: to give stability to investors, boost green jobs and support our security of supply". The European Council is expected to consider the framework at its spring meeting on 20-21 March. (Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-14-54\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-54_en.htm)



## Zero Emission Urban Bus System project launched

The Zero Emission Urban Bus System (ZeEUS) project, one of the largest electromobility projects funded by the European Commission, was launched on Thursday 23 January. The ZeEUS project will demonstrate different concepts concerning electric buses and give recommendations for encouraging their deployment across Europe. The project will also look at ways to ensure an optimal interaction with the power grid and charging infrastructure integration. As part of the 42-month demonstration project, different innovative technological solutions for electric buses will be demonstrated in eight cities: Barcelona, Bonn, Glasgow, London, Münster, Plzen, Stockholm and one city in Italy. Analysis from the project will be used to develop guidelines and tools to help stakeholders introduce electrified bus systems in other European cities. Leading manufacturers in bus electrification will participate with plug-in hybrids or full electric buses using different charging infrastructure and strategies.

ZeEUS aims to be the main EU activity for monitoring experiences and developments of electric urban bus systems. As the coming years will see many pilots, demonstrations and the purchase of electric vehicles, an Observatory will be established to discuss the progress of bus system electrification in Europe and contribute to electric bus fleet deployment strategies. (Source: UITP)

<http://www.uitp.org/%E2%80%98zero-emission-urban-bus-system%E2%80%99-project-major-milestone-greener-urban-transport>

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## EU and China begin investment talks

The first round of negotiations for an EU-China investment agreement took place in Beijing on 21-23 January 2014. A comprehensive EU-China investment agreement aims to benefit both the EU and China by ensuring that markets are open to investment in both directions. The Commission also hopes it will provide a simpler, secure and predictable legal framework to investors in the long term. The EU sees an investment agreement with China as an important element in closer trade and investment ties between the two economies. One of the EU's priorities in the negotiations will be to remove barriers to EU investors on the Chinese market. The negotiations start in the context of ambitious economic reforms recently announced in China. These include the decision to further open up China's economy to foreign investors in order to boost innovation and competitiveness by having more advanced industries and services on the mainland.

(Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-14-33\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-33_en.htm?locale=en)

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## Week ahead

### European Commission

No relevant activity

### Council of Ministers

Tuesday 28 January

Economic and Financial Affairs Council

### European Parliament (Political Group/Committees week, Brussels)

No relevant activity