

## Commission presents Energy Union strategy

The European Commission adopted its strategy for a resilient [Energy Union](#) with a forward-looking climate policy. It also presented an Interconnection Communication, setting out the measures needed to achieve the target of 10% electricity interconnection by 2020 and a Communication setting out a vision for a global climate agreement in Paris in December. The Commission plans further steps to decarbonise the transport sector through a shift to alternative fuels and electro-mobility. The Energy Union proposal makes electrification of the transport system an important requirement “to break oil dependency and to decarbonise transport”. The Energy Union is based on security of supply, sustainability and competitiveness of energy. To achieve these objectives, it focuses on five mutually supportive dimensions: energy security, solidarity and trust; completing the internal energy market; energy efficiency contributing to the moderation of energy demand; decarbonisation of the economy; and research, innovation and competitiveness. These areas all require more integration and coordination. An action plan detailing what measures will need to be implemented will be followed up and reviewed to ensure that it keeps responding to evolving challenges and new developments.

(Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-15-4497\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4497_en.htm)



## ACEA – reactions to Energy Union Package

Following the publication of the European Commission’s Energy proposal, the European Automobile Manufacturers’ Association (ACEA) re-stated its commitment to contributing its fair share towards lowering greenhouse gas emissions, namely through more fuel-efficient technology and continuing investments into alternative powertrains. ACEA stated that Europe’s cars, vans, trucks and buses currently meet the highest environmental standards in the world and manufacturers will continue to invest in alternative powertrains, including electric, hybrid, fuel-cell and natural gas-powered vehicles. Therefore, ACEA has welcomed the call for the swift deployment of alternative fuel re-charging infrastructure – essential for the roll-out of these alternative vehicles. ACEA also stressed that a ‘modal shift’ from road to non-road modes is not the right solution for decarbonising transport, as no one single transport mode is ‘per se’ more environmentally-friendly than others. This was highlighted recently by the European Environment Agency, which stated that “the environmental benefits of a large-scale modal shift are not precisely known and may differ considerably from that suggested by the existing average performance per mode, depending on a number of factors”. (Source: ACEA) <http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/industry-reacts-to-energy-union-package>

## EU Emissions Trading System reform

Nine EU ministers, including UK Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Edward Davey, have signed a letter calling for reform to the EU Emissions Trading system through the Market Stability Reserve. Ministers stressed the need to seek an ambitious and pragmatic outcome that has majority support across the EU institutions. They also reaffirmed their support for the MSR to start in 2017 and for the backloaded allowances to be immediately transferred into the reserve. (Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-ministerial-statement-on-eu-emissions-trading-scheme-reform>

## ACEA – Commercial Vehicle registrations: +7.6%

ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers Association, has released the commercial vehicle (CV) registrations for January 2015. The EU market for new CVs returned to growth after registering a decline at the end of 2014. In January, demand increased (+7.6%), totalling 142,596 units. Significant growth prevailed in all segments, including the truck and bus & coach segments, following a sharp decline the month before. Four of the five largest markets in Europe posted monthly gains, in particular Spain (+25.7%) and the UK (+23.6) that recorded double-digit growth.

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/commercial-vehicle-registrations7.6-in-january>

## Fast charge of electric vehicles in Denmark

The EU's TEN-T Programme will co-fund with over €1 million a pilot project upgrading the existing charging stations in Denmark to common European standards. This will allow different types of electric vehicles from all over Europe to travel freely in Denmark and will serve as best practice to other European countries. The pilot project will transform 40 of the 46 existing charging stations in Denmark into fast, multi-standard and interoperable facilities to meet the coming European standards and to achieve compatibility with other EU countries. As a pilot deployment, the project is expected to not only help develop the electric vehicle infrastructure in Denmark but also for the rest of Europe and foster drivers' acceptance of electric vehicles.

(Source: Innovation and Networks Executive Agency)

[http://inea.ec.europa.eu/en/news\\_events/newsroom/fast-charge-of-electric-vehicles-in-denmark-to-become-easier-with-eu-support.htm](http://inea.ec.europa.eu/en/news_events/newsroom/fast-charge-of-electric-vehicles-in-denmark-to-become-easier-with-eu-support.htm)

## Support for EU membership in UK at record high

According to a YouGov poll published this week, support for Britain remaining in the European Union is at its highest in more than four years. YouGov found that 45% of those surveyed said they would vote to stay, compared to 35% who would opt to leave, a record level of support for the EU, compared to a low

of 28% in May 2012. YouGov surveyed 1,772 adults between 22-23 February. The results coincided with a fall in support for the Eurosceptic UK Independence Party (UKIP).

(Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/uk-europe/support-eu-membership-uk-record-high-312414>

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## Week ahead

### European Commission

Monday 2 – Tuesday 3 March

- Momentum for Europe – the EIB will host a series of events on Europe's innovation and competitiveness.

Tuesday 3 March

- Commission presents European environment – state and outlook

Wednesday 4 March

- Employment and Social Aspects of TTIP – A discussion of implications of TTIP for growth and jobs, as well as labour standards and the available option for dispute settlement mechanisms.

Thursday 5 March

- High Level Conference – A new start for social dialogue – Leaders of European and national employers' and workers' organisations will gather in Brussels to discuss ways to strengthen social dialogue in line with the renewed EU economic and social priorities.

### European Council

Monday 2 – Tuesday 3 March

- Competitiveness Council – the Council will discuss ways to create a truly digital single market and the benefits that that market will bring to customers and businesses across the EU.

Thursday 5 March

- Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council – the Council will exchange views on the energy Union.

Friday 6 March

- Environment Council – continuing preparations for the UN climate change conference.

### European Parliament

Monday 2 March

- ECON – European Fund for Strategic Investments