

Commission consultation on reduction of GHG

The European Commission has opened a [consultation](#) on the 'preparation of a legislative proposal on the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the European Union's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction commitment in a 2030 perspective'. The consultation concerns the continuation of the period 2021-2010 of the current [Decision 406/2009/EC](#) on the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to meet the EU's reduction commitments for 2020, known as the Effort-Sharing Decision (ESD), which sets GHG reduction targets for each Member State for sectors not covered by the EU Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS). It seeks input on questions concerning policy alternatives that the Commission may consider in its preparation of a legislative proposal to revise and maintain the ESD after 2020. The questionnaire focuses on several issues including:

- the flexibility mechanism foreseen in the ESD to ensure overall cost-efficiency;
- monitoring, reporting and compliance;
- the approach to setting national greenhouse gas reduction targets in the ESD;
- complementary EU-wide action to achieve the reduction targets

The consultation will be open until 17 June 2014. The Commission indicated in its February 2015 Roadmap for the Energy Union that it intends to present a legislative proposal on the Effort-Sharing Decision for the period 2021-2013.

(Source: European Commission)

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/consultations/articles/0025_en.htm



EU commercial vehicle registrations up 8%

In February 2015, demand for new commercial vehicles in the EU increased for the second consecutive month after the decline recorded at the end of 2014. Total commercial vehicle registrations grew by 8.3%, totalling 135,778 units. Growth was sustained across all segments of commercial vehicles. Looking at the largest markets, Spain recorded the highest upturn (+29.5%) followed by the UK (+19.4) and Italy (+8.7%), while demand in Germany remained roughly stable (+1.0%). France was the only major market recording a decline (-4.3%). Significant growth was also posted by the new EU member states (+20.4%) contributing to last month's positive outcome across the region. In the first two months of the year, the EU market expanded by 8.0%, totalling 278,376 commercial vehicles. During the same period, Spain (+27.7%), the UK (+21.9%), Italy (+5.2%) and Germany (+3.1%) all posted growth, while France was the only major market recording a decline (-7.0%). (Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/commercial-vehicle-registrations8.0-over-two-months-8.3-in-february>

Launch of INGRESS Industry Group on EU Standardisation

Along with 15 other organisations, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) has joined the Industry Group on European Standardisation (INGRESS). Launched this week, INGRESS aims to 'inform European policy makers about industry's interests and priorities for using harmonised standards in the framework of Regulation EU 1025/2012'. EU Regulation 1025/2012 on European standardisation was adopted in 2012 to be the new framework for regulating certain aspects of the work of the three European standardisation organisations (ESOs). This European Regulation grants the legal basis for the European Commission to request ESOs to develop standards which have the potential to support EU legislation and policies, provided that they are used by interested stakeholders. ACEA views the creation and use of

robust standardisation as being an important factor in ensuring the competitiveness of European business. Together, through INGRESS, industry hopes that it can work with policy makers to ensure the consistent development and uptake of harmonised standards.

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/news/article/launch-of-ingress-industry-group-on-european-standardisation>

Council agrees negotiating position on MSR

The Latvian Presidency has a mandate to start negotiations with the European Parliament on the proposal for a decision concerning the establishment and operation of a market stability reserve. The first trilogue is scheduled for 30 March. The main positions of the Council are

- the start date of the MSR in 2021;
- backloaded allowances should be transferred directly into the reserve;
- unallocated allowances should be addressed by the Commission as part of the upcoming review of the ETS Directive

The decision is seen as an importance step in the fight against climate change and paves the way for the reform of the EU greenhouse gas emission trading system (ETS).

(Source: Latvian Council of the European Union)

<https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/1093-presidency-ready-to-negotiate-with-european-parliament-on-market-stability-reserve>



Leaders of European cities make pledge to tackle climate change

Leaders and representatives of 30 European cities gathered in Paris to declare their commitment to ‘clean’ policies to fight climate change. Officials also signed a [declaration](#) agreeing to use their collective purchasing power – estimated at around €10bn (£7.4bn) a year – to buy eco-friendly. In a joint statement signed by 26 European mayors, including Boris Johnson, city representatives said they hoped combining forces to favour green and low-carbon industries for procurement contracts would have a “leverage effect on the private sector that very often aligns its own requirements with the public sector”.

(Source: The Guardian)

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/mar/26/leaders-of-european-cities-make-pledge-to-tackle-climate-change>

Week ahead

European Parliament

Monday 30 March

- ENVI – Inter-parliamentary Committee:
 - From COP21 Paris to 2050 a roadmap towards an innovative low-carbon, resource-efficient Europe;
 - Presentation on the state and outlook of Europe’s environment 2015;
 - Conclusion of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the joint fulfilment of commitments

Tuesday 31 March

- AFET – Recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for TTIP

Wednesday 1 April

- EMPL – Recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for TTIP