

### ACEA – Passenger Car registrations +8.6%

The European Automobile Manufacturers Association, ACEA, published EU passenger car registration figures this week. In March 2015, demand for new passenger cars in the EU increased for the nineteenth consecutive month (+10.6%), marking the highest monthly growth since last March and totalling 1,604,107 units. All major markets contributed positively to the overall expansion, especially Spain (+40.5%) and Italy (+15.1%) which posted double-digit growth, followed by France (+9.3%), Germany (+9.0%) and the UK (+6.0%) that also performed better than in March 2014. In the first quarter of 2015, new passenger car registrations increased by 8.6% totalling 3.5 million units (3,527,704). All major markets posted growth, contributing to the overall upturn of the EU market. Registrations in Spain (+32.2%), Italy (+13.5%), France (+6.9%), the UK (+6.8%) and Germany (+6.4%) increased over this period. (Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/passenger-car-registrations-8.6-in-first-quarter-10.6-in-march>

### CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from cars continue on downward trend

According to the figures published by the European Environment Agency (EEA), in 2014 average new car emissions were 123.4g CO<sub>2</sub>/km compared to 186g CO<sub>2</sub>/km in 1995 - a 33.7% decrease over the period. This is the result of the long-term efforts of the automobile industry, which have been sustained both with and without legislation. Commenting on the announcement, ACEA stated that it is clear that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from passenger cars need to continue on their downward trend, and the industry is committed to this. However, because the most cost-efficient actions have already been taken, delivering on that aim requires ever greater technical investments to achieve smaller reductions. Ensuring further reductions in average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will also be dependent on greater market uptake of alternative powertrains, including electric, hybrid, fuel-cell and natural gas-powered vehicles. However, as the EEA points out,

electric vehicles continue to constitute only a very small, albeit rising, fraction of new registrations (0.3 % according to the EEA). (Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/co2-emissions-from-cars-continue-on-downward-trend>

### EU, US trade talks seek to advance regulatory pillar

The ninth round of talks on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is set to take place in New York next week (20-24 April). Negotiators have made clear their determination to make progress on all strands of the deal, but particularly on regulatory cooperation. Both the EU and the US have submitted their own proposal on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) for next week's round of negotiations, and they will try to reconcile the two positions. The same is happening on sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), and regulatory cooperation. Regulatory cooperation has been a highly contentious part of the deal-making. The Commission's proposal to introduce a new regulatory body that would structure cooperation has sparked fears that such an instrument would bypass national governments, by centralising decision-making powers in the hands of Brussels and Washington. (Source: EurActiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/trade-society/eu-us-trade-talks-seek-advance-regulatory-pillar-313842>

### ECB – Eurozone growth

A survey by the European Central Bank (ECB) showed that growth and inflation were moving higher as a result of the ECB's policy measures. Nevertheless, inflation, which is already low, will decrease even further this year linked to falling oil prices, but is expected to rebound next year. Turning to the growth outlook for the 19 countries that share the euro, the survey saw an upward revision in experts' growth forecasts. In addition, the lower exchange rate of the euro is expected to support exports. (Source: ECB)

<https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2015/html/pr150416.en.html>

## TRAN Committee discuss White paper on Transport

This week, the Transport and Tourism Committee (TRAN) discussed the draft report by Wim van de Camp (EPP, Netherlands) on the Implementation of the 2011 White Paper on Transport. There was general support for the report both from MEPs and from the Commission spokesperson. The main focus of the report is the lack of implementation since the 2011 White Paper was published. This is particularly true for the Single European Sky proposal for the aviation sector and the Fourth Railway Package. The report does not propose numerous new actions but focuses instead on continuity and the implementation of existing rules. Several issues were highlighted during the debate, in particular gender equality and how to increase the participation of women in the transport sector. Boosting the use of public transport as well as promoting walking and cycling as transport means, especially in cities, was emphasised by several MEPs and endorsed by the Rapporteur. A number of speakers called for a stronger focus on the urban dimension of European transport policy. The automatisisation of transport, including the use of drones and driverless cars was also mentioned, in particular its potential to reduce traffic accidents and increase road and transport safety in general. The deadline for tabling amendments to the draft report is 20 April. (Source: CBI)



## Week ahead

### European Commission

Monday 20 April

- European Economic Congress – the event will take place in Katowice, Poland and will include debates related to the future of Europe.

Friday 24 April

- ITS Conference 2015 “A Digital Strategy for Mobility: from capacity to connectivity” - the objective of this event is to provide an overview of the state of play with regard to a number of key actions and major initiatives in the context of the Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Action Plan and Directive.

### European Council

Tuesday 21 April

- General Affairs Council – EU ministers will identify the Council’s priorities for a future EU Commission proposal on an inter-institutional agreement on better law making.

### European Parliament

Monday 20 April

- ITRE – Public Hearing on ‘The internal energy market as a pillar for the European Union’
- BUDG&ECON – European Fund for Strategic Investments