

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 17 May

### European new car registrations up 1.7% in April

Figures published by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, show that in April European new car registrations grew for the first time since September 2011, up 1.7% to 1,038,343 units (although the region counted on average two more working days compared to the same month last year, accounting for the increase). Results were varied across markets in April, with the major markets Germany (+3.8%), Spain (+10.8%) and the UK (+14.8%) expanding, while France (-5.3%) and Italy (-10.8%) faced a downturn. From January to April new car registrations amounted to 4,026,946 units, or 7.1% less than in the same period a year ago with the UK remaining the only major market to post growth (+8.9%), whilst Spain (-6.7%), Germany (-8.5%), France (-12.3%) and Italy (-12.3%) all saw their demand decline. (Source: ACEA)

[http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news\\_detail/passenger\\_car\\_registrations\\_-\\_7.1\\_over\\_four\\_months\\_1.7\\_in\\_april](http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/passenger_car_registrations_-_7.1_over_four_months_1.7_in_april)

### EU ETS: 2012 saw continuing decline in emissions but growing surplus of allowances

Emissions of greenhouse gases from installations participating in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) decreased by 2% in 2012, according to the information recorded in the Union Registry. The EU ETS covers more than 12,000 power plants and manufacturing installations in the 27 EU member states, Norway and Liechtenstein and also, from 2012, emissions from airlines flying between airports in these countries and to closely connected areas. Verified emissions of greenhouse gases from stationary installations have continued to fall, dropping to 1,867 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent last year, about 2% below the 2011 level for installations and companies' level of compliance with the EU ETS rules was again high. Less than 1% of the participating installations did not surrender allowances covering all

their 2012 emissions by the deadline of 30 April 2013. These installations are typically small and together account for less than 1% of emissions covered by the EU ETS. At the end of 2011, the allowance surplus was some 950 million. A combination of the use of international credits, auctioned phase 2 allowances and remaining allowances in the new entrant reserve, sales of phase 3 allowances to generate funds for the NER300 programme and early auctioning of phase 3 allowances, has delivered a cumulative surplus of almost two billion allowances by the end of 2012. Commenting on the report, Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard, stated: "The good news is that emissions declined again in 2012. The bad news is that the supply-demand imbalance has further worsened in large part due to a record use of international credits. At the start of phase 3, we see a surplus of almost two billion allowances. These facts underline the need for the European Parliament and Council to act swiftly on back-loading."

(Source: European Parliament)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-437\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-437_en.htm?locale=en)



### Commission plans to support development of 'smarter cities'

A high-profile group of mayors and industry representatives, under the European Commission's leadership, has started to work towards making Europe's cities 'smarter'. EU Vice Presidents Kallas and Kroes and Commissioner Oettinger have hosted

the first High Level meeting of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) “Smart Cities and Communities”. The EIP plans to support wide-scale deployment of innovative technologies in the areas of mobility management, energy generation, distribution and consumption, and information and communication technologies. The EIP also aims at increasing the collaboration between local decision makers, industry suppliers, and civil society representatives. The Commission intends to play the role of catalyst in promoting partnerships whereby stakeholders commit on the basis of co-operative self-organisation. In support of an EIP, the Commission plans to use all its instruments: policy leadership, innovation support, and regulatory measures. This autumn, the group will publish a Strategic Implementation Plan that will outline specific operational objectives and advise the Commission on its innovation agenda.

(Source: European Commission)

[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/oettinger/headlines/news/2013/05/20130514\\_smart\\_cities\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/oettinger/headlines/news/2013/05/20130514_smart_cities_en.htm)



## Specifications for new generation of tachographs informally agreed

Specifications for a new generation of digital tachographs for trucks and buses have been informally agreed by the Irish presidency and Parliament negotiators. Innovations include devices that can read on-board recording devices from a distance, aim to make it easier to enforce driving and rest times. Under the draft rules, smart tachographs would be fitted to new vehicles within three years once the Commission has set out the technical specifications, with the aim to put an end to fraud and tampering and ensure that rules apply fairly and equally to all trucks over 3.5 tonnes on EU roads. Within 15 years, they would have to be fitted, or

retrofitted, to all EU-registered trucks and buses in international transport.

(Source: European Parliament)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20130514IPR08248/html/Smart-tachographs-for-road-safety-and-fair-competition-in-road-transport>

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## Week ahead

### European Commission

No relevant meetings

### Council of Ministers

21 May

General Affairs Council: This General Affairs Council is planning to discuss the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), and preparations for the upcoming European Council.

22 May

European Council: At this European Council the heads of state or government are expected to focus on energy.

### European Parliament (Plenary week)

21 May

EU trade and investment agreement negotiations with the US: Council and Commission statements