

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 20 May

EU ETS emissions increased in 2010

Emissions of greenhouse gases from businesses participating in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) increased by 3.2% last year, according to the information provided by member state registries. The EU ETS covers more than 12,000 power plants and manufacturing installations in the 27 EU member states, Norway and Liechtenstein. Verified emissions of greenhouse gases from these installations totalled 1.932 billion tonnes of CO₂-equivalent last year, some 3% higher than the 2009 level. The increase in emissions is in line with widely held expectations and analysts' forecasts ahead of the data release. It can be attributed to the economic recovery following the recession which caused an 11.6% fall in emissions in 2009. This increase is however likely to be lower than the rebound in output from the installations concerned given that the average industrial production index in the EU 27 increased by 6.7% in 2010 compared to 2009. Companies' level of compliance with the EU ETS rules was high. Only 2% of the installations participating did not surrender allowances covering all their 2010 emissions by the deadline of 30 April 2011. These installations are typically small and together account for less than 2% of emissions covered by the EU ETS. 3% of installations failed to submit verified emissions for 2010 by the same deadline. (Source: European Commission)

europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=P/11/581&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en



Commission requests action on road infrastructure safety

The European Commission has asked 11 member states set up appropriate procedures for improving the safety of the trans-European road network in accordance with their obligations under European Union law. The countries; Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland, Greece, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Austria, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia must improve procedures on road safety impact assessments, road safety audits and safety rankings of the network. The Commission has decided to act against the eleven member states because they have not fully transposed the Directive into national law adopted in 2008, although they were required to do so by 19 December 2010. Failure to set up the appropriate procedures for safety impact assessments and audits could affect the safety of road infrastructure within the trans-European road network, thus posing a potential risk to drivers and passengers using the roads.

(Source: European Commission)

europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/312&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

Projects submitted for renewable energy and clean technologies

78 proposals for large-scale demonstration projects involving innovative renewable energy and carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies have passed the member state stage of the NER 300 programme and have been submitted to the European Investment Bank (EIB). The NER 300 programme aims to fund at least eight CCS and at least 34 innovative renewable energy demonstration projects. The programme is so named because it will be funded from the sale of 300 million emission allowances held in the New Entrants Reserve (NER) of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). At the current carbon price, these allowances are worth €4-5 billion, but as project sponsors must also bring funding it is expected to leverage around

the same amount in addition from private or other sources. The deadline for submissions was 9 May 2011 and according to an initial screening of the project proposals by the EIB, applications for 13 CCS projects and 65 projects involving innovative renewable energy technologies have been submitted. Based on recommendations from the EIB, the Commission will consult the EU Climate Change Committee, in which all member states are represented, check that member states still support the projects they recommended, and prepare and issue award decisions. (Source: European Commission)

ec.europa.eu/clima/funding/ner300/index_en.htm



Climate panel takes steps to regain integrity

Governments representing the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have agreed measures to strength its integrity and credibility following a number of errors that undermined confidence in its scientific work. At the end of a two-week meeting in Abu Dhabi, participants from 194 nations agreed a conflict of interest policy, protocols to handle errors in reports, guidance on communication and recommendations on non-peer reviewed materials. Governments representing the panel believe it will help deliver a clearer assessment report in 2014. Government representatives also agreed to set up an executive committee that will, among other things, oversee the panel's response to errors. The IPCC said it will update a methodology for estimating greenhouse gas emissions from wetlands by 2013. This will improve the way countries calculate possible emission reductions related to the restoration of lost or degraded wetlands. (Source: IPCC)

www.ipcc.ch/news_and_events/docs/ipcc33/PRESS_RELEASE_Outcomes_abu_dhabi_13_may.pdf

Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity

Council of Ministers

No relevant activity

European Parliament – Meetings of Committees (Brussels)

INTA – Monday 23 - Tuesday 24 May

EU-Canada Trade relations – Vote

TRAN – Monday 23 – Wednesday 25 May

Cross-border enforcement in the field of road safety – consideration of amendments and vote

TRAN – Monday 23 – Wednesday 25 May

European road safety 2011-2020 - Consideration of amendments and vote

TRAN – Monday 23 – Wednesday 25 May

The charging of heavy goods vehicles - Exchange of views

ENVI - Monday 23 – Wednesday 25 May

Analysis of options to move beyond 20% greenhouse gas emission reductions and assessing the risk of carbon leakage – vote

EMPL – Tuesday 24 – Wednesday 25 May

Agenda for new skills and jobs – consideration of draft report

ITRE – Tuesday 24 – Thursday 26 May

Green paper: from challenges to opportunities: towards a common strategic framework for EU research and innovation funding – consideration of draft report

ITRE – Tuesday 24 – Thursday 26 May

Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond - vote

ITRE – Tuesday 24 – Thursday 26 May

An effective raw materials strategy for Europe – consideration of amendments

ITRE – Tuesday 24 – Thursday 26 May

How to improve our energy supply by enhancing competition, making our energy systems smarter and developing energy infrastructure – hearing