

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 3 June

Agreement reached on simplifying accounting rules for small companies

Agreement has been reached on simplifying accounting rules for small companies after EU ministers agreed on legislation at this week's Competitiveness Council meeting in Brussels. The new legislation will exempt smaller companies from some aspects of accountancy obligations, introducing a new category of companies called 'micro-entities', aiming to reduce regulatory burden on business. UK Business Minister Edward Davey MP said: "I greatly welcome the progress made today in Europe to simplify the accounting rules for our smallest companies. This is a significant step in reducing red tape and a clear signal that we will take action to stop our smallest companies being held back by excessive regulation. I believe this shows what can be achieved by a positive and constructive engagement with the European Union - the first ever exemption for micro-entities from an existing EU directive. We now need to build on this breakthrough and I hope that further improvements can be agreed before the proposal becomes law." (Source: BIS)

[nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=419745&NewsAreaID=2](https://www.nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=419745&NewsAreaID=2)



European Environment Agency issues air quality warning

The European Environment Agency has issued its annual status report that warns ceilings for nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions will be exceeded. In its report, the EEA said that while three air pollutants are projected to meet the ceilings, NO_x emissions for the EU27 as a whole will exceed its ceiling by 17% with ten Member States expect to miss their respective NO_x ceilings. While other pollutants are on track, the EEA identifies road transport as the largest contributor to the anticipated exceedances in NO_x emissions, stating that 40% of total EU NO_x emissions in 2009 were from the road transport sector. The EEA also states that emission reductions from road transport over the past two years have not been as large as originally anticipated partly, it says, due to the sector growing more than expected and because vehicle emission standards have not always delivered the anticipated level of NO_x reductions. Some Member States, such as the Netherlands and Slovenia, expect to exceed their respective NO_x ceilings by only small margins (less than 5%). In contrast, Germany and France expect to exceed their ceilings by 328 kilotonnes and 275 kilotonnes respectively - equivalent to exceedances of 31% and 34%. Austria, while expecting lower surpluses in absolute terms, anticipates exceeding its ceilings by an even larger margin (40%). The United Kingdom is expected to meet all its air pollutant emission ceilings. (Source: European Environment Agency)

www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/eu-to-exceed-nitrogen-oxides?utm_campaign=eu-to-exceed-nitrogen-oxides&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions

www.oecd.org/document/4/0,3746,en_21571361_44315115_48034436_1_1_1_1,00.html

Week ahead

European Commission
No relevant activity

Council of Ministers

No relevant activity

European Parliament – Strasbourg

6 June – Oral Question on EU-Canada trade relations

7 June – Debate on Charging of heavy goods vehicles