

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 14 June

### European Commission adopts eCall proposals

The European Commission has adopted two proposals on eCall. The eCall system automatically dials 112 – Europe’s single emergency number- in the event of a serious accident, communicating the vehicle’s location to emergency services, even if the driver is unconscious or unable to make a phone call. This draft legislation will require that by October 2015 all new models of passenger cars and light duty vehicles would be fitted with 112 eCall and that the necessary infrastructure would be created for the proper receipt and handling of eCalls in emergency call response centres - ensuring the compatibility, interoperability and continuity of the EU-wide eCall service. The proposals are:

- A Regulation concerning type-approval requirements for the deployment of the eCall system (and amending the related [Directive 2007/46/EC](#)) – making the vehicle fit for eCall;
- A Decision on the deployment of the interoperable EU-wide eCall – making the public infrastructure fit for eCall.

Research estimates suggest that eCall could speed up emergency response times by 40% in urban areas and 50% in the countryside, and save up to 2,500 lives a year, and that in addition to the road safety benefits, eCall will also have a significant impact on reducing the congestion caused by traffic accidents and on reducing secondary accidents caused by unsecured accident sites. ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers’ Association, has welcomed the legislative proposal on eCall and has called on all stakeholders to work together to deliver safe, affordable motoring on Europe’s roads, stating that the industry is committed to drastically reducing the number of deaths involving motor vehicles. ACEA also stated that any public eCall service must be pan-European and available to all customers before the system becomes obligatory and that Public Service Answering Points (PSAPs) must be ready in all member states, and Mobile Network Operators need to be prepared before in-vehicle systems are enforced. (Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-534\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-534_en.htm)

### European Parliament adopts EMF Directive

The European Parliament plenary held a debate on 10 June on the proposal for a directive on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields). On 11 June, the Parliament adopted the report with 598 votes in favour, 40 against and 38 abstentions. The Commission will now adopt the proposal by the Council on 20 June and the Directive will be published in the Official Journal in early July.

(Source: European Commission)

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1917&furtherNews=yes>



### EU-US Trade and Investment Partnership: Ministers to discuss negotiating mandate

The EU’s trade ministers are meeting at the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) in Luxemburg to discuss the negotiating mandate for the EU-US trade and investment partnership (TTIP) that had been proposed by the European Commission in March this year. The trade deal is expected to boost the EU’s economy by 0.5% of its GDP, or €119 billion annually, due to the removal of tariffs and red tape. The ministers will also discuss the preparations for the next WTO Ministerial Conference in December this year, the EU-Canada trade agreement, decision-making procedures in trade

policy, labour conditions in Bangladesh, and trade relations with China. (Source: European Union)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express.htm>

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## European Commission gives €77 million boost to high-tech manufacturing sector SMEs

The European Commission is contributing €77 million from its 7th R&D Framework Programme (FP7) to an innovation initiative for the manufacturing sector designed to help high-tech small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) exploit the potential of ICTs to help grow their businesses. The "I4MS" initiative (ICT for Manufacturing SMEs) will help 200 SMEs across Europe, who are either attempting to reduce the risks involved in using advanced technology which is still in its infancy, or are trying to cross the so-called "valley of death" that separates the development of an innovative prototype from a successful product in the market. I4MS officially kicks off in July 2013 and will conduct more than 150 innovation experiments over the next 3 years. It targets suppliers and users of ICT solutions and covers innovation in four areas: advanced robot solutions, high performance cloud-based simulation services, intelligent sensor-based equipment and innovative laser applications. SMEs across Europe will benefit in three ways:

- direct financial support to improve their products or manufacturing processes
- acquisition of new technologies and knowledge
- access to new markets and partners outside their local ecosystem.

These experiments will be implemented with the help of pan-European networks of competence centres, providing the knowledge and support for partnering beyond national borders. SMEs will be able to apply for funding through Calls for Experiments launched by these centres in 2014 and 2015.

(Source: European Commission)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-533\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-533_en.htm)

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## Week ahead

### European Commission

19 June

Commission adopts new Regional Aid Guidelines

19 June

Conference on a 2030 framework for climate and energy policies

### Council of Ministers

18 June

Environment Council

The Council will take note of a progress report on the draft directive on Indirect Land Use Change amending the fuel quality directive and renewable energy directive. The Council will also adopt conclusions on "An EU strategy on adaptation to climate change".

21 June

Economic and Financial Affairs Council

As part of the European Semester, the Council will approve recommendations on the 2013 national reform programmes of the member states, a recommendation on the economic policies of the euro area and conclusions on Croatia.

### European Parliament (Committee Week)

17 June - INTA

- EU—China negotiations for a bilateral investment agreement. Consideration of draft motion for a resolution.

19 June – ENVI

- Eco-innovation—Jobs and Growth through environmental policy. Consideration of draft report.
- Amendment of Directive 2003/87/EC clarifying provisions on the timing of auctions of greenhouse gas allowances. Vote.
- Fluorinated greenhouse gases. Vote.
- Amendment to the fuel quality directive and the renewable energy directive (ILUC). Consideration of amendments.

