

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 21 June

EU-US trade talks open at G8 Summit

Negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the EU and US were officially launched at the G8 Summit in Northern Ireland on Monday 17 June. This follows agreement by EU ministers at the Foreign Affairs (Trade) Council meeting on Friday 14 June where a mandate for negotiations was adopted by Member States. In a joint press conference at the G8 Summit, President Obama joined Prime Minister David Cameron, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy in emphasising that the trade negotiations will be challenging, with sensitive issues on both sides. President Obama said the negotiations would be a priority for him and his administration. ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, welcomed the announcement, stating that it has been working actively with its US counterpart, the American Automotive Policy Council (AAPC), to provide input to the authorities on both sides of the Atlantic.

(Source: Council of the European Union)

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/137485.pdf

European new car registrations down 5.9% in May

Figures published by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association show that European new car registrations fell 5.9% in May to 1,042,742 units. In absolute figures, this is the lowest level recorded for a month of May since 1993 when new registrations stood below one million. Five months into the year, a total of 5,070,840 new cars were registered in the region, or 6.8% less than in the first five months of 2012. In May, most major markets faced a downturn ranging from -2.6% in Spain to -8.0% in Italy, -9.9% in Germany and -10.4% in France. The UK was the only country to post growth (+11.0%). Overall, the EU registered 1,042,742 new cars, or 5.9% less than in the same period last year. From January to May, Spain and Germany saw their market shrink by 5.8%

and 8.8% respectively, while Italy (-11.3%) and France (-11.9%) recorded a double-digit decline. The UK continued its positive trend, expanding by 9.3%. (Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/passenger_car_registrations_-6.8_over_five_months_-5.9_in_may



European elections to take place from 22 - 25 May 2014

The Foreign Affairs Council has decided to bring forward the period of the next European Parliament's elections from 5-8 June to 22-25 May 2014. This follows the positive opinion of the European Parliament given on 21 May. The main objective of advancing the electoral period is to ensure optimal conditions for the elections and to strengthen the European Parliament's legitimacy. It also responds to a request by the European Parliament from 2005. At this time, the Parliament asked to bring forward the date of the election to May so that it can better organise itself to expedite the election of the new Commission President and avoid the beginning of the summer recess in several member states.

(Source: Council of the European Union)

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/137466.pdf

Environment Committee reaffirms support for emissions trading fix

Environment Committee MEPs have approved a freeze on the auctioning of some CO₂ permits in order to help boost investment. The committee proposes stricter conditions and advocates an earlier, predictable reintroduction of credits. MEPs also propose earmarking a portion of permit auction revenues for innovation. The growing surplus of emission allowances – due to initial oversupply and the economic slowdown – has made the carbon price fall well below the levels estimated when the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) was created. MEPs in the lead Environment Committee reiterated their support for allowing the Commission to “backload” – or delay - the timing of a portion of credits to be auctioned. The text is to be put to a plenary vote on July 3 in Strasbourg.

(Source: European Parliament)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20130617IPR12344/html/Environment-Committee-reaffirms-support-for-emissions-trading-fix>

2012 road deaths down 9%

The European Transport Safety Council has announced that in 2012, there were 2,661 fewer road deaths recorded in the EU compared with 2011, amounting to social savings of €5 billion. However, the reduction of road deaths by 11% over the first two years of the 2010-2020 target is 600 short of the number that needed to reach the target through constant annual reductions.

(Source: ETSC)

http://etsc.eu/documents/ETSC_17.06_PINReport2013.pdf



EU Sustainable Energy Week

The EU Sustainable Energy Week, held between 24-28 June 2013, is now in its eighth year and will feature activities dedicated to energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. It aims to demonstrate to businesses, decision-makers and the wider public that sustainable energy technologies are viable, cost-effective and good for the environment and the economy. Through a series of events across the EU, this year's EUSEW 2013 puts the emphasis on how to best mobilise and use the financing needed to deliver sustainable energy systems and services. At the core of the Week is a high-level policy conference in Brussels. The conference will look at the role of the private sector as an important source of financing, and at how public funds available at the national and European level can be used in the best possible way. The relevant sessions will include presentations on best private and public financing practices and how to improve regulatory frameworks.

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-596_en.htm?locale=en

ACEA appoints new Secretary General

ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association has announced the appointment of Erik Jonnaert as its new Secretary General, with effect this autumn. Mr Jonnaert will replace Ivan Hodac who after 12 years at the helm of ACEA will be taking his retirement. (Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/press_release_new_secretary_general_for_european_auto_mobile_manufacturers_a

Week ahead

European Commission

26 June

European Commission proposes new long term investment framework

Council of Ministers

- 24 June - Foreign Affairs Council
- 25 June - General Affairs Council
- 27 June - European Council

European Parliament (Committee/ Group Week)

No relevant activity