

ACEA – Car registrations +8.2% in first semester

Figures released by the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) showed the demand for new passenger cars in the EU is up +14.6%, following the upward trend commenced 22 months ago and marking the largest over-the-month increase since December 2009. All major markets significantly supported the overall expansion, with Spain (+23.5%), France (+15.0%), Italy (+14.4%), Germany (+12.9%) and the UK (+12.9%) posting double-digit growth. Across the region, new passenger car registrations totalled 1,364,009 units. In the first semester of 2015, new passenger car registrations increased (+8.2%) surpassing 7 million units (7,169,984). All major markets posted growth, contributing to the overall upturn of the EU market over the period. Registrations in Spain (+22.0%), Italy (+15.2%), the UK (+7.0%), France (+6.1%) and Germany (+5.2%) increased compared to the same period one year ago.

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/passenger-car-registrations-8.2-in-the-first-half-of-the-year-14.6-in-june>

TTIP has potential to boost transatlantic auto trade by 20%

The 10th round of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations between the United States and the European Union took place this week in Brussels. The negotiations are gaining new momentum, as the potential deal is coming into focus. For the automotive industry, TTIP represents an opportunity to remove regulatory barriers, while maintaining high safety and environmental standards. A [recent study](#) by the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) - "Gains from Harmonizing US and EU Auto Regulations under the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership" - concluded that the elimination of such differences could increase automotive trade by 20% or more, resulting in transatlantic income gains of over \$20 billion. Industry estimates that this rise would

represent over 240,000 more vehicles traded annually, worth more than \$9 billion, and supporting tens of thousands of jobs. Eliminating tariffs and achieving greater auto regulatory convergence would also provide greater consumer choice, lower costs and improve the international competitiveness of the American and European auto industries.

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/ttip-has-potential-to-boost-transatlantic-auto-trade-by-20-or-more-study-sh>



Commission adopts Summer Energy Package

The European Commission adopted its summer energy package, including a reform on the EU Emission Trading System (EU ETS), a revision of the Energy Efficiency Labelling Directive, a consultation on a new energy market design and a Communication targeted at energy consumers. The package is seen as an important step towards implementing the Energy Union Strategy and helping to better coordinate Member States' energy systems.

On the EU ETS reform:

To achieve at least 40% greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2030, as agreed by EU leaders in October 2014, the sectors covered under the EU ETS will have to reduce their emissions by 43% compared to 2005. The Commission key changes are:

- The overall number of emission allowances will decline at an annual rate of 2.2% from 2021 onwards, compared to 1.74% currently.

- Rules to address the risk of carbon leakage:
 - Benchmark values will be updated to capture technological progress in the different sectors, and would be reduced by 1% every year, as a default value.
 - Production data – more flexible rules will allow to better align the amount of free allowances in cases of closures and production increases.
 - Indirect costs – Member States are encouraged to use auction revenue to provide compensation in line with state aid rules.
- Several support mechanisms, such as the Innovation Fund and the Modernisation Fund, will be established to help industry and the power sector meet the innovation and investment challenges of the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Please see [here](#) for the full proposal.

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5358_en.htm

Greek Parliament approves bailout

Greece's parliament passed austerity measures demanded by lenders to open talks on a new bailout package this week. The package was approved with 220 votes in the 300-seat chamber. Eurozone finance ministers will consider short-term emergency funding to keep Greece afloat until the new bailout is finalised. Greece is facing an immediate cash crisis, with banks closed since 29 June. Greece must also commit to a major overhaul of the civil justice system by 22 July and agree to more privatisation, to review collective bargaining and industrial action and make market reforms, including Sunday trading.

The vote approved:

- VAT changes including a top rate of 23% to take in processed food and restaurants; a 13% rate to cover fresh food, energy bills, water and hotel stays; and a 6% rate for medicines and books
- An increase in corporation tax from 26% to 29% for small companies
- An increase in luxury taxes on big cars, boats and swimming pools
- An end to early retirement by 2022, increasing the retirement age to 67

(Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-33546352>



REACH: Safety Data Sheet Compliance Checks

In July 2015, a new annex titled '[Safety Data Sheet Compliance Checks](#)' was added to the 'REACH: Automotive Industry Guideline'. This annex provides guidance for downstream users on conducting plausibility checks of incoming safety data sheets (SDSs). This is now considered necessary to fulfil legal obligations after industry and authorities experienced poor SDSs data quality in the supply chain. Plausibility check guidance is given in a series of steps which may be seen as increasing in complexity. Currently only available in English, this guide will be translated into other languages in the coming months and published accordingly. Annex Q also provides guidance, by providing several examples, on compliance actions that are required by a recipient of an extended safety data sheet - i.e. an SDS with attached exposure scenario(s) for substances or 'safe use mixtures information' for complex mixtures.

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/publications/article/reach-safety-data-sheet-compliance-checks>

Week ahead

The European Parliament is in summer recess until 1 September 2015.