

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 9 September

“European Road Safety 2011-2020” report published

The European Parliament’s Committee on Transport & Tourism has published the consolidated report, “European Road Safety 2011-2020”. The report calls on the Commission to develop proposals within its Communication, “Towards a European Road Safety area: policy orientations on road safety 2011-2020”, into a “fully fledged action programme incorporating a detailed set of measures with clear timetables for their implementation, monitoring instruments, so that the effectiveness of the measures can be regularly checked, and provision for a mid-term review”. The report endorses the Commission’s objective of halving EU road deaths by 2020 (in comparison with 2010), and in addition calls for a 60% reduction in the number of children under the age of 14 killed in road accidents, a 50% reduction in the number of pedestrians and cyclists killed in road collisions, and a 40% reduction in the number of people suffering critical injuries. The report also calls on the Commission to “put safer vehicles on the road” through the assessment, development and implementation of a number of safety checks, including: alcolocks, crash management systems, seat-belt reminder systems, fatigue warning systems, integrated accident recorder systems, front-underrun protective devices, and intelligent speed assistance systems. The report will be voted in Plenary on 27-29 September 2011. (Source: Europarl)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?body=TRAN>

European Commission takes first step to implementing eCall system

The European Commission has announced the adoption of an eCall Recommendation, in what is seen as the first step in the Commission's aim for a fully functional eCall service to be in place throughout the European Union by 2015. This Recommendation, adopted on 8 September, urges Member States to

ensure that mobile phone network operators upgrade their infrastructure so that eCalls are efficiently passed on to emergency services, and ensures that mobile operators treat calls from eCall devices like other 112 calls – i.e. give priority to them and do not charge for them. The Recommendation is due to be followed by the adoption by the Commission of specifications for the upgrade of emergency call response centres (under the Intelligent Transport Systems Directive – 2010/40/EC) and a proposal for a Regulation to require eCall devices meeting the required technical specifications to be fitted to all new models of passenger cars and light vehicles from 2015 in order to obtain EU-wide type approval. Neelie Kroes, Commission Vice-President for the Digital Agenda, stated “I am delighted that we have taken the first step to ensure that millions of citizens will benefit from eCall, a system that can slash the time emergency services need to arrive at road accidents. eCall will save hundreds of lives and reduce the pain and suffering of road accident victims”. (Source: Europa) <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1010&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Week ahead

European Commission

Thursday 15 September

Interim Economic Forecast

The Commission will publish its interim economic forecasts updating the outlook on GDP and inflation for the 7 largest member states as well as the EU and Euro zone.

Council of Ministers

Monday 12 September

General Affairs Council

Ministers are expected to discuss;

- The next multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).
- The draft agenda for the European Council (17th/18th October 2011).

European Parliament (Committees Brussels)

Monday 12 September

New Trade Policy for Europe under the Europe 2020 Strategy – Debate and vote