

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 13 September

Barroso delivers European State of the Union address

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission has delivered his annual State of the Union address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. President Barroso used his speech to underline the importance of Europe and stressed the importance for citizens to engage with the EU. His remarks come as the European Parliament enters its final year ahead of elections in 2014. Mr Barroso outlined a number of issues on the economy and highlighted his priorities for the EU over the coming year, as part of the Europe 2020 agenda. The economic recovery in the eurozone, as well as pursuing international trade opportunities were highlighted, along with key issues surrounding enlargement of the European Union and the EU's budget.

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-13-684_en.htm?locale=en



European Mobility Week to focus on clean air

European Mobility Week is due to take place in the coming week, which is an annual campaign to promote sustainable urban travel. This year's campaign focuses on clean air and will seek to raise awareness about the impact of transport on local air quality. 2013 is also the European Year of Air, where

EU policy makers are reviewing its Thematic Strategy on Air Quality. Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment, said: "This year, we will put emphasis on the impact that transport and our daily choices have on the quality of the air we breathe and our health. By raising awareness and offering alternative transport options, cities can become more attractive places for people to live, they can make a major contribution to protect our health and promote a more sustainable future for all of us because when it comes to clean air, it's your move!" (Source: European Mobility Week)

http://www.mobilityweek.eu/fileadmin/files/Press_packs/Press_pack_EMW_2013_final.pdf

European Parliament adopts resolution on Fuel Quality Directive and Renewable Energy Directive

The European Parliament has adopted a resolution on the Fuel Quality Directive and Renewable Energy Directive (indirect land-use changes). The Parliament said that the use of crop-based biofuels in Europe should be limited to 6% of energy consumption in the transport sector. The Parliament also said that the indirect land-use change impacts of biofuels should be accounted for under the fuel quality directive from 2020. The European Commission only proposed a reporting requirement. The centre-right EPP group also opposed giving ALDE rapporteur Corinne Lepage a mandate to begin first-reading negotiations with member state representatives in the Council of Ministers. This means there will now be a second reading with discussions unlikely to re-start before parliament elections in May.

(Source: ENDS)

<http://www.endseurope.com/33039/parliament-opts-for-6-limit-on-croplbased-biofuels>

iMobility challenge event hosted in the Netherlands

The FIA's iMobility Challenge event has been held in the Netherlands. The event aimed to demonstrate how European cities can be provided with smart, energy-efficient, low-pollution and safe transport systems. Funded by the European Commission, the event demonstrated the next generation of mobility solutions and included high-level demonstrations of autonomous vehicle and eCall technology. Jean Toft, President of the FIA said: "Thanks to vehicle connectivity, we are on the verge of a new era in mobility. An array of new technologies provides an outlook to safer, greener and smarter driving experiences for road users, but reaching out to them is of critical importance."

(Source: FIA)

<http://www.imobilitychallenge.eu/>



Industrial production down 1% in EU in June 2013

Eurostat has released the latest industrial production statistics for the EU. Figures demonstrate that industrial production fell 1% in the EU in June 2013, year-on-year, and by 1.5% in the euro area. In July 2013, figures demonstrate that industrial production dropped 2.1% in the euro area and 1.7% in the EU.

(Source: Eurostat)

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/4-12092013-AP/EN/4-12092013-AP-EN.PDF

Week ahead

European Commission

Wednesday 18 September

Proposal of draft legislation on financial benchmarks

Council of Ministers

19-20 September

Informal meeting of EU Energy Ministers to discuss completion of the EU energy internal market in 2014; strengthening the external dimension of EU energy policy; presentation of public consultation outcomes as regards climate and energy policy strategy 2030; general preparation for Energy Council on 12 December.

European Parliament (Committees - Brussels)

Monday 16 September

INTA: Consideration of question for oral answer on the modernisation of the EU-Mexico FTA;

Consideration of draft motion for a resolution on the state of play on the Doha Development Agenda.

TRAN: Consideration of draft report on deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure

Tuesday 17 September

INTA: Adoption of a draft opinion on CARS 2020

TRAN: Public hearing on road transport – weights and dimensions

Wednesday 18 September

ENVI: Vote on the possible opening of an early second reading agreement on sound level of motor vehicles.

ITRE: Consideration of draft report on CARS 2020