

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 14 September

European Parliament sets out its policy priorities for 2013

The European Parliament has called for real economic and monetary union with greater democratic accountability, as a first step towards a stronger political union, in its contribution to the European Commission's 2013 work programme. Growth initiatives and better controls on national spending of EU funds were among several specific proposals put forward by MEPs. The joint resolution from members stated that the Commission should play "a full part" in the EU summits of October and December, where a roadmap for a stronger economic union should be agreed, with the aim to create a financial and fiscal policy framework and ensure greater democratic legitimacy. To achieve this outcome, MEPs want the Commission to immediately propose legislation under the ordinary procedure, which involves Parliament fully and guarantees transparency, stating that the first proposal should address the need for a genuine banking union, with increased supervisory powers for the European Central Bank (ECB). Members also called for the scope and use of the European project bonds, so far introduced only as a pilot project, to be broadened, calling on the Commission to table a detailed growth agenda, which should also include a strategy to fight energy price rises and their impact on citizens. MEPs further stated that compulsory "national management declarations" should be introduced, to ensure compliance with EU spending rules, backed up by independent evaluations of all EU-financed projects. (Source: European Parliament) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20120907IPR50821/html/Parliament-sets-out-its-policy-priorities-for-2013>

President Barroso delivers State of the Union speech

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso has delivered his State of the Union speech, wherein he called for the launching of a wide-ranging public debate for a major transformation of the European Union into a "federation of nation states". The speech was delivered as news of Germany's

Constitution Court's rejection of efforts to block the European Stability Mechanism - the eurozone's €500-billion bailout fund – were announced. The court's decision now paves the way for the country's ratification of the fiscal compact. (Source: EurActiv) <http://www.euractiv.com/euro-finance/german-constitutional-court-give-news-514753>



EU grants almost €200 million to support key transport infrastructure projects

The European Commission has selected 74 projects that will receive almost €200 million in EU co-financing from the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) programme to continue improving transport infrastructure across the EU. These 74 projects, selected as a result of the 2011 annual call, will use EU financial support for a variety of purposes, ranging from the construction and/or upgrade of current links, support of transport corridors, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and innovative financial instruments. The 2011 annual programme call granted €198.63 million in total funding and aimed to finance the highest priorities of the TEN-T network. Commenting on the announcement, Commission Vice-President Siim Kallas, responsible for transport, stated: "The European Commission continues to support the construction and upgrade of European transport infrastructure to ensure its citizens can reap the benefits of a complete, safe and modern network. Moreover, the almost €200 million made available today will also help to support employment in the EU by allowing Member States to continue investing in

large and small infrastructure projects during a time of general economic stagnation”.

(Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/945&format=HTML>

FISITA launches ‘Your Future in Automotive’ website

The International Federation of Automotive Engineering Societies (FISITA), has launched a new website for students and young engineers – www.yourfutureinautomotive.com – to help young people find out more about working in the automotive industry. The website offers educational advice and career guidance, as well as featuring an international database of 120 universities, offering information on engineering and automotive-related courses around the world. There is also a global database of student journals, accessible to all online users to help share knowledge and give students the necessary exposure. The launch of the new resource follows a PriceWaterHouseCoopers report published in 2011, in which 46% of automotive CEOs said that the task of finding the right talent is becoming increasingly difficult, predominantly because there are not enough skilled candidates. The survey reported that 56% of automotive CEOs feared that a lack of key skills could drag down growth. The global automotive industry needs to recruit the brightest engineering and scientific minds to work on advanced technologies ranging from alternative propulsion systems to autonomous driving vehicles, in order to ensure safe and sustainable mobility in the decades ahead. With the *Your Future In Automotive* website, FISITA seeks to highlight the diversity of roles available and celebrate the innovation and cutting-edge technology being developed within the automotive industry. The goal is to share this information with students and young engineers in order to encourage them to consider a future career in the ever-growing automotive industry. The website also features a ‘*Jobs and Internships*’ listings page for companies to profile their graduate and undergraduate jobs and internships, free of charge. Students and young engineers can search and apply for roles through the site or using links to specific company pages.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2012/09/fisita-launches-%e2%80%98your-future-in-automotive%e2%80%99-website/>



Week ahead

European Commission

16 -22 September – European Mobility Week

Council of Ministers

17 September – Informal meeting of energy ministers

European Parliament – Committee week

ITRE - 17 September

Establishment of Horizon 2020 – consideration of amendments

Specific Programme Implementing Horizon 2020 – consideration of amendments

ITRE – 18 September

The Energy roadmap 2050 – a future with energy – public hearing

Connecting Europe Facility – consideration of draft report

TRAN – 17 September

Roadworthiness package – exchange of views

TRAN – 18 September

Passenger rights in all transport modes- vote

IMCO – 19 September

Public Procurement - consideration of amendments

ENVI – 19 September

Sound level of motor vehicles - vote