

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 24 October

Juncker Commission appointed

The College of Commissioners proposed by Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has been appointed. In the European Parliament vote on Wednesday 22 October, 423 MEPs voted in favour of the new Commission, 209 against and 67 abstained. The European Council then officially appointed the Commission on Thursday 23 October. The Commission will run from 1 November 2014 to 31 October 2019. The work programme of the Commission focuses on boosting competitiveness, jobs and growth with Mr Juncker stating that the upcoming €300 billion investment package would play a key role in achieving these goals. Mr. Juncker also took on board criticisms from some of the Parliamentary Groups of his proposed structure for the College and therefore moved medicines from the Internal Market Portfolio back under the Health Portfolio. He has also changed the name of the Portfolio for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy to 'Enlargement Negotiations' to reconfirm that acquisition of new members would not be feasible during his term, but negotiations would still continue. Furthermore, he outlined his commitment for TTIP and offered some clarification surrounding his position on Investor-State Dispute Settlements (ISDS) under the negotiations.

(Source: European Commission)

http://ec.europa.eu/about/juncker-commission/structure/index_en.htm



EU leaders agree CO₂ emissions cut

EU leaders have reached a landmark deal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030, compared with 1990 levels. Other key elements of the agreement are:

- a binding target of at least 27% of renewable energy used at EU level;
- an energy efficiency increase of at least 27%;
- the completion of the internal energy market by reaching an electricity interconnection target of 15% between members states and pushing forward important infrastructure projects.

. Commenting on the announcement EU Commissioner Connie Hedegaard stated: "The EU climate action commissioner is very proud that the 28 EU leaders, despite economic uncertainty and other severe international crises, were able to get their act together on this pressing climate challenge. A binding 40% CO₂ reduction effort domestically in Europe is not an easy task. It can only be achieved through a major transformation in all parts of the society. That is why the EU leaders' decision to adopt the Commission's proposal is an ambitious and important step forward. Important not only to Europe and the Europeans, but also to the rest of the world. We have sent a strong signal to other big economies and all other countries: we have done our homework, now we urge you to follow Europe's example. In order to get Europe on the right track towards a low-carbon society, it is extremely important that the leaders also accepted the renewables target binding at the EU level just as the Commission proposed. And it is good that they agreed to do more on energy efficiency, although here the Commission wanted more ambition. But now the direction towards 2030 has been set. States, regions, municipalities, businesses, investors and citizens now all know where we are heading. This is a very good day for Europe's climate politics."

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-14-337_en.htm

UK told to pay £1.7bn extra to European Union budget

The UK has been told it must pay an extra £1.7bn (€2.1bn) towards the European Union's budget because the economy has performed better than expected in recent years. The payment would add about a fifth to the UK's annual net contribution of £8.6bn and follows new calculations by the EU that determine how much each member state should contribute. A government source said the demand was "not acceptable" while one Tory MP said the UK should simply refuse to pay it. UKIP leader Nigel Farage said the UK had been "hammered again" while Labour said it was imperative that the European Commission must reconsider the "backdated bill". (Source: BBC News)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-29751124>

Commission publishes report on ITS

The European Commission has published a [report](#) on the implementation of European legislation supporting the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) in the field of road transport, and for interfaces with other modes of transport. The report is accompanied by a [Commission Staff Working Document](#) on the progress and review of the ITS Action Plan. The report reveals the progress achieved in the implementation of the directive and action plan, especially regarding the six priority actions laid out in the directive. These are:

1. the provision of EU-wide multimodal travel information services;
2. the provision of EU-wide real-time traffic information services;
3. data and procedure for the provision, where possible of road safety related minimum universal traffic information free of charge for users;
4. the harmonised provision for an interoperable EU-wide eCall;
5. the provision of information services for safe and secure parking places for trucks and commercial vehicles;
6. the provision of reservation services for safe and secure parking places for trucks and commercial vehicles.

The report concludes that the ITS directive has been an efficient tool for the rapid adoption of common specifications for the first three priority actions. Regarding reservation services for safe and secure parking places for trucks and commercial vehicles, the

report finds that there is no need for further action in the near future. The report finds it a necessary first step to prioritise the remaining actions to be addressed in the current scope of the ITS Directive and Action Plan, taking into account the emergence of new long-term trends and the possible necessity to set up new priorities beyond the six currently defined priority actions and four priority areas. In the next phase, the Commission should reflect on, and start preparing work for a possible revision of the ITS Directive and of the supporting Action Plan, taking into account the constant technical evolution of ITS and building on the conclusions of the Working Document. (Source: European Commission)

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/its/road/action_plan/doc/action-plan-reports/com%282014%29642_en.pdf

Global new car market up 4.7% in September

Based on results, which are preliminary in some cases, passenger vehicle sales for the global new car market in September were up around 4.7% from the year before. YTD, sales in the first nine months of this year were up around 2.62 million units over the same period in 2013 (up 4.6%). The US, Western Europe and especially Asia made positive contributions, while sales in Eastern Europe and Latin America were down once again.

(Source: Polk)

<http://www.smmmt.co.uk/2014/10/global-new-car-market-september-2014/>

Week ahead

Council of Ministers

Tuesday 28 October: Environment Council

The Council will

- Adopt conclusions on "Greening the European Semester" and the mid-term review of the Europe 2020 Strategy.
- Present to the Commission the roadmap for the mid-term review in July at the General Affairs Council.
- Hold a public orientation debate on a proposal for an amending directive addressing the management of different types of waste and affecting a large number of legally binding obligations. The view is to improve waste management in the EU, protect the quality of the environment and ensure prudent and rational use of natural resources.