



WEEK IN BRUSSELS



Week ending Friday 29 October 2010

1. **South Korea expresses FTA concerns**
2. **Council Presidency proposes limit for Vans to 140g CO₂/km in 2020**
3. **Commission publishes 2011 work programme**
4. **Single Market Act launched**
5. **EU firms investment more than US rivals during economic downturn**
6. **Commission launches consultation on low carbon economy by 2050**
7. **Week ahead**

1. South Korea expresses FTA concerns

South Korea is launching its ratification of the EU-South Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Alongside the launching of this ratification process, South Korean Trade Minister Kim Jong Hoon expressed concerns that a last minute EU block would happen. The Korea-EU FTA was signed on 6 October 2010, and it needs to be ratified by the South Korean and EU parliaments before it can be implemented on July 1, 2011. It also needs the approval of the 27 individual member states of the EU before it can take full effect. "I am cautiously optimistic on the chances of getting the ratification by the Korean side because the overall majority of the Korean general public seem to be in favour of the deal we have." (Source: Europolitics) www.europolitics.info/

2. Council Presidency proposes limit for Vans to 140g CO₂/km in 2020

The Belgian Council Presidency has come forward with a compromise proposal setting the target for the average emissions of new light commercial vehicles at 140g of CO₂/km for 2020. The proposal will serve as a basis for negotiations within the Council in view of reaching an agreement on the Commission's proposal for a Regulation setting CO₂ emissions performance requirements for new light commercial vehicles. The Commission proposal aims to extend the principles adopted in the CO₂ emissions from cars Regulation (EC) No 443/2009 to a wider range of vehicles so that all light duty vehicles, including light commercial vehicles (vans) are covered by the emissions requirements. The Belgian Presidency is pushing for a deal on the regulation by the end of the year. Parliament will vote in late November. (Source: EUissuetracker.com) www.euissuetracker.com/en/Pages/default.aspx

3. Commission publishes 2011 work programme

The European Commission has published its 2011 work programme, setting out its main legislative and non-legislative priorities for the coming year. In keeping with the Europe 2020 Strategy, the listed initiatives aim to deliver smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and are based on five political priorities: dealing with the economic crisis; restoring growth for jobs; building an area of freedom, justice and security; negotiating a modern EU budget and pulling the EU's weight on the global stage. The work programme includes a communication from the Commission and four detailed annexes. (Source: European Commission) ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/docs/cwp2011_en.pdf

4. Single Market Act launched

The European Commission has launched the Single Market Act (SMA). The SMA builds on the work of former Commissioner Mario Monti, whose May 2010 report contained a series of options and recommendations to re-launch the Single Market. This is the core message of the Communication on "An integrated industrial policy for the globalisation era" adopted by the European Commission today on the initiative of vice-president Antonio Tajani. The Communication, a

flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 strategy, sets out a strategy that aims to boost growth and jobs by maintaining and supporting a strong, diversified and competitive industrial base in Europe offering well-paid jobs while becoming less carbon intensive. The SMA will seek to unlock the potential of the Single Market by putting people at its heart. Its goal is to achieve a highly competitive social market economy with sustainable economic growth based on renewed citizen and business confidence. (Source: European Commission)

ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/industrial-policy/index_en.htm

5. EU firms cut investment less than US rivals during economic downturn

The European Commission's 2010 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard shows that R&D investment by top EU companies fell by 2.6% in 2009, this is despite a drop in profits by 10.1% and 21.0% respectively. The fall in R&D investment by leading companies in the US, at 5.1%, was double the figure of the EU, but the worldwide reduction was lower, at 1.9%. Japanese firms maintained their level of investment. Japanese car maker Toyota is the world's biggest R&D investor (€6.8bn) for the second consecutive year. Three EU companies feature in the top ten: Volkswagen, the biggest investor based in Europe with €5.8bn, Nokia and Sanofi-Aventis. Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science said: "The fact that major EU firms have largely maintained their R&D investment shows that they recognise R&D as key to emerging stronger from the crisis. We urgently need heads of state and government at the December European Council to back the Innovation Union proposals that Antonio Tajani and I announced on 6 October." (Source: European Commission)

iri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports.htm

6. Commission launches consultation on low carbon economy by 2050

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on a roadmap for achieving a low carbon European economy by 2050, which is scheduled for publication in the first half of 2011. The roadmap will set out a strategy for realising the EU's 2050 target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% on 1990 levels. The Roadmap is likely to conclude that a major shift in energy production and use is essential to achieve the EU's long-term objectives. The public consultation will be open until 8 December 2010 and seeks to gather opinions from stakeholders and the public on how to best "decarbonise" the European economy in ways that stimulate technological innovation, boost economic growth and job creation, and strengthen the EU's energy security.

ec.europa.eu/clima/consultations/0005/index_en.htm

7. Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity

Council of Ministers

No relevant activity

European Parliament

No relevant activity – constituency week