

## WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 7 November

### Global Commercial Vehicle Meeting 2014 held in Tokyo

At the Global Commercial Vehicle Meeting 2014 the world's leading manufacturers of heavy-duty commercial trucks and engines called for further progress in regulatory harmonisation and closer cooperation among European, North American, and Japanese regulators in order to improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel consumption associated with on-road freight transport. Meeting in Tokyo, the chief executives of more than 10 global truck and engine manufacturers discussed key issues facing their industry, including fuel efficiency improvements, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, safety, diesel fuel specifications, and issues related to heavy-duty engine and vehicle regulation and certification. Chaired by Mr. Susumu Hosoi, President of ISUZU Motors Limited and Chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association's Heavy Vehicle Committee, this was the chief executives' twelfth meeting to discuss global issues and recommend solutions to the critical challenges facing commercial vehicle manufacturers. Summarising the meeting, Mr. Hosoi stated, "Heavy-duty engine and vehicle manufacturers are making clear progress in exhaust emission reductions and fuel efficiency improvements with sustained efforts. We confirmed that accelerating efforts aimed at harmonisation of test procedures and standards are needed to further advance the global objective of greenhouse gas reductions. We also confirmed the need to continue to discuss safety measures. The best approach to reach this objective is for governments and industry to work together." Points agreed on at this twelfth gathering of the industry leaders included:

- Early action on the introduction of globally harmonised fuel efficiency metrics and test procedures for heavy-duty vehicles;
- The need for further discussions on safety measures;
- To promote global harmonisation of heavy-duty hybrid certification procedures;
- The need for further discussions on diesel fuel specifications; and
- The need for global cooperation in expanding WHDC.

The leaders of the assembled companies a) emphasised the need for concerted global action for GHG emissions reductions; b) agreed to work with their governments not only to expand WHDC but also to support the United Nations in the establishment of a globally harmonised hardware-in-the-loop simulation (HILS) procedure for use in heavy-duty hybrid certification; c) referred to the progress made so far in UN discussions on the development of global diesel fuel specifications, and d) confirmed the need for further discussions on safety measures. Agreeing to advise their regional secretariats to continue the activities of the joint experts meetings, they also affirmed that trans-national/trans-regional cooperative efforts between industry and governments toward global harmonization can serve to promote improvements for customers and the global environment.

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/global-commercial-vehicle-meeting-2014>



### Conference of Presidents discuss European Council conclusions

The Conference of Presidents in the European Parliament discussed the outcomes of the European Council meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> October. This was the last post-summit debate with the outgoing President of the European Council, as well as the first with the new Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. The debate focused on the climate and energy package as well as the economic situation. Herman Van Rompuy

emphasised that the importance of having reached an agreement on climate targets more than a year before Paris should not be underestimated. The four headline targets adopted all work in the same direction to provide energy that is greener, more secure and affordable. Regarding the economic situation, Van Rompuy highlighted that the causes of weak economic growth are not monetary or budgetary policy. In recent years, the Commission has shown a lot of flexibility in budgetary policy by putting emphasis not on deficits in real figures but on structural deficits. Europe now has to start structural reforms to improve the functioning of labour markets. President Juncker expressed his full support for the Council conclusions. He asked that both Commissioners Šefčovič and Cañete be invited to future meetings of the Presidents to talk about their progress in implementing the conclusions. Juncker was glad that his €300 billion investment programme had been accepted. This will be presented before the end of year and it will mostly concern the private sector. Most of Parliament's political group leaders backed the climate and energy targets agreed by the Council, although many had hoped for more ambition. They also stressed the need to solve the EU's budget problems, raised concerns about the Ebola outbreak and asked for details of the planned €300 billion growth package promised by Juncker.

(Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-04-11-2014.htm>



## EU may offer Britain instalment plan for disputed bill

EU finance ministers are likely to let Britain pay a new bill to Brussels in interest-free instalments, but rule out any reduction in the surcharge, triggered by historic revisions to national income data, officials have

stated. EU finance ministers, including British Chancellor George Osborne, must find a solution at a meeting on Friday 7 November in Brussels, where they are expected to vote to change the regulation that sets down how budget payments are made. Under a system of instalments, the deadline for the first payment could also be pushed back to January, but that is still open to negotiation and must also be agreed by the European Parliament.

(Source: Euractiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/euro-finance/eu-may-offer-britain-installment-plan-disputed-bill-309800>

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## Week ahead

### Council of Ministers

Friday 14 November

ECOFIN Council Meeting of the Budget Ministers

Council will:

- Prepare the negotiations with the European Parliament on the 2015 EU budget which will take place within the Conciliation Committee meeting on the same day.
- Address the three-week conciliation period started, aimed at bridging the gap between the positions of the Council and the European Parliament. This started on 28 October after the Council in-formed the European Parliament on 22 October that it cannot approve all Parliament's amendments for the 2015 budget.
- Address the Council's position, adopted on 2 September by an overwhelming majority of member states, increases payments for activities such as research, innovation and education by 24.5% or €2.8 billion.

### European Parliament (Committee week)

Monday 10 November

ENVI - Reduction of pollutant emissions from road vehicles statement – Exchange of views without document

Tuesday 11 November

ECON

Scrutiny of delegated acts and implementing measures: Liquidity coverage ratio and leverage ratio