



WEEK IN BRUSSELS



Week ending Friday 12 November 2010

- 1. Commission re-launches CARS 21**
- 2. CO₂ emissions from new cars see biggest fall in 2009**
- 3. EU sets a trade policy agenda for next five years**
- 4. Hungarian EU Presidency to begin agenda on energy**
- 5. Commission launches plan for innovative low-carbon technologies**
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1. Commission re-launches CARS 21

The European Commission has re-launched the CARS 21 High Level Group. The Commission has asked the group to develop an action plan and vision for "a competitive EU automotive industry and sustainable mobility and growth in 2020 and beyond." This will contribute to the EU strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, Europe 2020, to the flagship initiatives on resource efficiency and industrial policy and to the EU strategy for clean and energy efficient vehicles. To reach the objectives set out by the EU, the group has been enlarged to represent the various stakeholders. European commission vice-president Antonio Tajani said: "We need an ambitious and comprehensive strategy to foster its competitiveness and growth worldwide while ensuring sustainability. By bringing all relevant interests to the same table we will identify policies fit for the future." (Source: European Commission)

ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/automotive/competitiveness-cars21/cars21/index_en.htm

2. CO₂ emissions from new cars see biggest fall in 2009

Average CO₂ emissions from new cars sold in the EU dropped by 5% last year, the biggest annual fall ever recorded, according to a report published by the European Commission. The Commission also adopted detailed rules to harmonise the monitoring of CO₂ emissions from cars across the EU. The decrease in the power, engine capacity and weight of cars, seen for the first time in 2008, accelerated last year. The Commission said this was due to a combination of the economic crisis, the scrappage schemes introduced in some member states and increased demand for and development of more fuel-efficient vehicles. The EU CO₂ emissions target of 130g CO₂/km that is to be met in 2012 by the average 65% lowest emitting cars was reached last year. The Commission's view several large volume manufacturers are expected to reach the 2015 target a few years in advance if this trend continues. Climate action commissioner Connie Hedegaard said: "The latest data shows however that the car industry is on track to achieve the 2015 target and most likely several major manufacturers will be able to do so well in advance. I am glad that in reality EU legislation on reducing CO₂ emissions is proving an effective driver of innovation, keeping the EU industry at the front-edge of competitiveness." (Source: European Commission)

ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/vehicules/index_en.htm

3. EU sets a trade policy agenda for next five years

The European Commission has laid out its blueprint for an EU trade policy to help revitalise Europe's economy. In its discussion paper "Trade, Growth and World Affairs", the Commission analyses how trade is an engine for economic growth and job creation. It proposes a strategy to reduce trade barriers, to open global markets and to get a fair deal for European businesses. The paper sets out the triple benefit of trade for Europe: stronger economic growth, more jobs and increased consumer choice at lower prices. Commissioner de Gucht said the

proposed strategy outlined six priorities: to complete ongoing trade negotiations at multilateral and bilateral level, deepen EU relations with strategic partners, where the main focus will be on tackling non-tariff barriers, help European business to access global markets through mechanisms designed to address imbalances in reciprocity, negotiate comprehensive investment provisions with key trading partners, enforce existing trade rules and to promote inclusiveness and development. EU trade commissioner Karel De Gucht said: "A renewed trade strategy will open markets and connect Europe to the main sources and regions of global growth. My aim is to ensure that European business gets a fair deal and that our rights are respected so that all of us can enjoy the benefits of trade." (European Commission)

ec.europa.eu/trade/trade-growth-and-jobs/

4. Hungarian EU Presidency to begin agenda on energy

A European Council energy meeting will take centre stage next February after Hungary has taken on the rotating presidency of the European Union for the first half of 2011. The energy meeting between EU heads of state and government is the first key date of note on 4 February and is expected to focus on security of supply. Hungarian president Viktor Orban will shape debates at the European Council after being given a preview of member states' positions on key issues with a view to having a better chance of reaching compromises, as is customary for holders of the presidency. Orban's party won April's legislative elections in the Central European country and his EU presidency programme was described as being "very ambitious" by European Commission President José Manuel Barroso at the beginning of October. Speaking at an economic forum in Poland in September, Hungarian officials identified the implementation of the 'Europe 2020' agenda, economic governance and measures leading to more discipline on national budgets and the Stability and Growth Pact as key chapters of the Lisbon Treaty upon which to build. (Source: Euractiv)

www.euractiv.com/en/priorities/hungarian-eu-presidency-kick-energy-news-499592

5. Commission launches plan for innovative low-carbon technologies

The European Commission has launched the first call for proposals for the world's largest programme of investment in low carbon and renewable energy demonstration projects. The initiative, known as NER300, will provide financial support for at least eight projects involving carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies and at least 34 projects involving renewable energy technologies. The aim is to drive low carbon economic development in Europe, creating new low carbon jobs and contributing to the EU's climate change goals. The European Investment Bank (EIB) is collaborating with the Commission in the implementation of the programme. Companies interested in making proposals have 3 months to submit bids at national level. Climate action commissioner Connie Hedegaard said: "Through using revenues from selling of CO₂ allowances, around €4.5 billion will be available for innovative renewable energy technologies and CCS. With project sponsors and member states contributions this will sum up to €9 billion. This can give a needed boost for keeping EU in the frontrunner position when it comes to climate friendly technologies." (Source: European Commission)

ec.europa.eu/clima/funding/ner300/index_en.htm

6. Commission presents new energy strategy

The European Commission has presented its new strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy. The Communication "Energy 2020" defines the energy priorities for the next ten years and sets the actions to be taken in order to save energy, achieving a market with competitive prizes and secure supplies, boosting technological leadership, and to effectively negotiate with international

partners. The Commission will come forward with concrete legislative initiatives and proposals within the next 18 months. This communication also sets the agenda for the discussion by heads of states and governments at the very first EU Summit on Energy on 4 February 2011. Energy commissioner Günther Oettinger said: "Putting our energy system onto a new, more sustainable and secure path may take time but ambitious decisions need to be taken now. To have an efficient, competitive and low-carbon economy we have to merge our energy policy and focus on a few but pressing priorities." (Source: European Commission)

ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/2010/2020_en.htm

7. Week ahead

European Commission

Wednesday 17 November

European Energy Infrastructure Package

The Package will recommend six priority infrastructure actions for 2020/2030. It will be accompanied by an impact assessment.

Wednesday 17 November

An Agenda for new Skills and Jobs

The Agenda will look at creating the conditions for modernising labour markets, with a view to raising employment levels and ensuring the sustainability of European social models.

Wednesday 17 November

Raw Materials Strategy

The Communication will summarise the three main obstacles facing European agriculture and recommend a series of actions to ensure:

- safe and sufficient food supply
- sustainable management of natural resources
- balanced development of rural areas.

Council of Ministers

Wednesday 17 November

Economic and Financial Affairs Council

Ministers will discuss:

- VAT treatment of financial services
- Follow up to the European Council meeting on 28/29 October and to the G20 summit on 11/12 November

Political agreement will be reached on a directive on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation, and a regulation on credit rating agencies.

Ministers are expected to adopt conclusions on the financing of climate change measures, statistics and on pensions and will take note of the Court of Auditors' annual report.

European Parliament (Committee and Group Week – Brussels)

No relevant activity