

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 22 November

Provisional agreement reached on noise limits for motor vehicles

EU Member State permanent representatives have endorsed a provisional agreement reached on 5 November between the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council and European Parliament representatives for the reduction of the sound level of motor vehicles. The agreement paves the way for the formal adoption of the new regulation, on which the European Parliament is expected to vote early next year. The regulation will be applicable two years after its entry into force. The regulation is aimed at improving environmental protection and public safety and at ensuring a better quality of life and health, by reducing major sources of noise caused by motor vehicles. It will introduce a new test method for measuring noise emissions and lower the limit values for the type-approval of motor vehicles. It will also address for the first time the issue of the minimum noise level of electric or hybrid electric vehicles. The main features of the agreement include the setting of noise limit values for the different vehicle categories and a timeframe for implementation, labelling and consumer information, the development of acoustic alert systems and the impact of the road surface.

(Source: Council of the EU)

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/139612.pdf

EU new car registrations up 4.7% in October but down 3.1% year-to-date

Figures published by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, show that new car registrations in the EU for October recorded a 4.7% increase, totalling 1,004,935 units. It was the first time since September 2011 that demand for new cars was up in two consecutive months. From January to October, new car registrations amounted to 10,006,807 units, or 3.1% less than in the same period last year. In October, Italy was the only major

market to face a downturn (-5.6%). All others contributed positively to the overall 4.7% expansion of the EU market, with growth ranging from +2.3% in Germany to +2.6% in France, +4.0% in the UK and +34.4% in Spain. The results recorded were however the second lowest level to date for a month of October. From January to October, major markets performed diversely. Germany (-5.2%), France (-7.4%) and Italy (-8.0%) saw their demand for new cars decline, while Spain (+1.1%) and the UK (+10.2%) registered more vehicles than in the first ten months of last year. Overall, there were 10,006,807 new vehicles registered in the EU, or 3.1% less than in January-October 2012.

(Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/passenger_car_registrations_-_3.1_over_ten_months_4.7_in_october



Volkswagen tops global R&D ranking

The EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard has shown that for the first time since 2004, an EU company – the German vehicle manufacturer Volkswagen – is the world's largest private sector R&D investor. Volkswagen tops the European Commission's 2013 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard with an investment of €9.5bn in 2012. Overall, EU-based firms (527 companies) stepped up R&D investment by 6.3%, just above the average of the 2,000 firms in the Scoreboard (+6.2%). However, similar to previous years they lagged behind their US counterparts (+8.2%). There was mixed performance across sectors, with strong R&D growth in some but

stagnation or decline elsewhere. EU Scoreboard companies surveyed expected to increase their R&D investments by 2.6 % on average per year for the period 2013-2015, a fall in expectations over the previous year. The 6.2% increase on average in R&D growth of the Scoreboard companies came despite a slowdown of net sales growth (+4.2% vs +9.9% in 2011) and a 10.1% decline in operating profits in 2012. The EU's overall positive results were largely driven by the R&D growth rates of German companies, particularly in the automotive sector. EU based companies in the automobiles & parts sector showed strong R&D growth (+14.4% vs -2.6% for their US counterparts). EU companies also outperformed US counterparts in Industrial Engineering (+12.3% vs +9.4%) and aerospace & defence (+9.5% vs -1.3%). Results of EU companies in the ICT sector were mixed, with software and computer services performing well (+14.2%) but showing a decline in IT hardware (-2.3%). In contrast, US-based companies performed well across both sectors (+12.6% and +14.8% respectively).

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1090_en.htm?locale=en

Launch of interactive tool for EU R&D projects on electric vehicles

The Electric Vehicle Radar (EV-radar), an innovative tool providing information on electric vehicle R&D projects in Europe has been launched by the EU's Joint Research Centre (JRC) at the 27th International Electric Vehicle Symposium & Exhibition (EVS 27) in Barcelona. JRC researchers collected data on more than 320 publicly funded research, development, and demonstration (R,D&D) projects on electric and plug-in cars in Europe, covering the period 2007-2015 which received EU or national public funding, with a total budget of more than €1.9 billion. For each project users can find detailed information such as descriptions, links, partners and budget. The EV-Radar is accompanied by the JRC report 'Paving the way for electrified road transport', the third in a series dealing with electro-mobility aspects in Europe. It assessed the potential gaps in the European R,D&D landscape and provides initial input to the European Electro-mobility Observatory, launched by the European Commission early this year. The Electric Vehicle Symposium and Exhibition is co-sponsored by the European Commission and has grown to be the world's largest gathering of electric, hybrid plug-in and

fuel cell vehicles, which takes place in Europe every 4 years and alternates between America, Asia and Europe every 1.5 years. The JRC further presented its work on e-mobility, including smart grids, battery testing and a joint venture with Argonne National labs to establish and further develop interoperability facilities in both the US and Europe.

(Source: European Commission JRC)

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm?id=1410&dt_cod e=NWS&obj_id=18400&ori=RSS



Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity

Council of Ministers

25- 26 November

Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council

European Parliament (Committees - Brussels)

Tuesday 26 November

TRAN – Adoption of Draft Report on Deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure

Wednesday 27 November

ENVI – Vote on the results of the negotiations on sound level of motor vehicles

INTA – Hearing on implementation of social and environmental provisions in bilateral trade