

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 28 November

Commission commits to enhanced transparency

On Tuesday 25 November, the European Commission adopted a Communication from the Trade Commissioner, Cecilia Malmström, outlining how more transparency will be injected into the negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Actions put forth by the Commission to enhance transparency in the TTIP negotiations include:

- Making public more EU negotiating texts that the Commission already shares with Member States and Parliament;
- Providing access to TTIP texts to all Members of the European Parliament (MEPs),
- Classifying less TTIP negotiating documents as "EU restricted", making them more easily accessible to MEPs outside the reading room;
- Publishing and updating on a regular basis a public list of TTIP documents shared with the European Parliament and the Council.

The European Commission has also made a commitment to enhancing the transparency of the institution as a whole. It has committed to:

- Publishing information about who meets its political leaders and senior officials;
- Creating a common set of rules to apply to Commissioners, their Cabinets, and the Directors-General of the Commission services;
- From 1 December, publishing on its website the dates, locations, names of the organisations and self-employed individuals met and the topics of discussion of its bilateral meetings within two weeks of each meeting;
- An interinstitutional agreement with the European Parliament and the Council to create a mandatory register for lobbyists covering all three institutions, to come into force in 2015.

(Source: European Commission)

http://ec.europa.eu/news/2014/11/20141125_en.htm

EU launches Investment Plan to boost growth

On Wednesday 26 November, the European Commission announced a € 315 billion Investment Plan with the goal of getting Europe growing again and getting more people back to work. The Plan is built on three main strands:

- The creation of a new European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), guaranteed with public money, to mobilise at least € 315 billion of additional investment over the next three years (2015 - 2017);
- The establishment of a credible project pipeline coupled with an assistance programme to channel investments where they are most needed;
- An ambitious roadmap to make Europe more attractive for investment and remove regulatory bottlenecks.

According to European Commission estimates, taken as a whole, the proposed measures could add € 330 - € 410 billion to EU GDP over the next three years and create up to 1.3 million new jobs.

(Source: European Commission)

http://ec.europa.eu/news/2014/11/20141126_en.htm



Rise in commercial vehicle registration

ACEA has published figures for new commercial vehicles registrations. In October, the EU market for new commercial vehicles expanded for the fourteenth consecutive month. Demand increased by 10.8%,

totalling 176,913 units. A significant growth prevailed in all segments. From January to October 2014, 9.8% more new commercial vehicles were registered than in the same period last year, reaching a total of 1,393,551. Looking at the largest markets, France remained stable (-0.4%), while Germany expanded (+7.8%). The UK (+13.9%), Italy (+17.0%) and Spain (+33.5%) posted double-digit growth.

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/commercial-vehicle-registrations-9.8-over-ten-months-10.8-in-october>

FIA's vision for mobility in 2025 launched

On 26 November 2014, the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) launched its report 'The road to 2025: Fair, Intelligent & Affordable'. The report states that with upcoming environmental and societal challenges, it is clear that a future-proof model of transportation will require a multi-faceted, cooperative approach to ensure intelligent, affordable, safe and clean mobility. Focussing on the initiatives needed to get the most benefit from technological advances, the document proposes concrete steps for policymakers to safeguard the future of mobility. In the light of growing urbanisation, an ageing population and increasing resource scarcity, the FIA has examined how the deployment of new technologies could improve the mobility experience throughout the EU. With the right policies and investments, the FIA believes that, by 2025, European citizens should have:

- Widespread access to a variety of connected vehicle technologies with an extensive market for applications and services
- Guaranteed rights for data protection and a free choice of service providers
- Affordable motoring costs for vehicle sales, repair, taxation and fuel
- Equal access for all residents, urban, rural, young or elderly to all modes of transport
- Better road safety thanks to the increased availability of vehicle automation and constantly improved road infrastructure
- Lifelong driver training that progressively introduces innovative vehicle technologies
- Truly fuel efficient vehicles thanks to ambitious CO₂ emissions targets
- Good information about the environmental footprint of each mode of transportation, including accurate labelling of passenger car emissions

(Source: FIA)

http://www.fiaregion1.com/download/2025/2025_brochure.pdf

Week ahead

Council of Ministers

Wednesday 3 December

TTE Council – The Council will:

- Adopt a set of conclusions on transport infrastructure and the trans-European network. These conclusions will contribute to the mid-term review of the Europe 2020 growth strategy (2015)

Thursday 4 December

The Competitiveness Council will:

- Address internal market and industry issues.
- Hold a policy debate on the priorities for further enhancing the internal market.
- Be expected to approve conclusions on two aspects with a view to reinforcing the single market: the smart regulation agenda and the management of customs risks to facilitate trade.
- Hold a policy debate on industrial competitiveness, and be expected to approve conclusions with a focus on the role of SMEs and the preparation of a roadmap for dealing with challenges and opportunities of the European industry.

European Parliament

Monday 1 December

TRAN:

- Announcement of Council's position at first reading on the Weights and Dimensions Directive
- Presentation by the European Commission on the implementation report on the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems

Wednesday 3 December

ENVI:

- Establishment and operation of a market stability reserve for the Union greenhouse gas emission trading scheme and amendment of Directive 2003/87/EC

Thursday 4 December

IMCO:

- Simplification of the transfer of motor vehicles registered in another Member State within the Single Market