

## International Climate Conference – COP21 Paris

High-level climate talks have begun in Paris, aimed at signing a long-term deal to reduce global carbon emissions. More than 150 world leaders have converged to launch the two-week talks, known as COP21. The last major meeting in 2009 ended in failure. But French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, who is chairing the meeting, said a deal was within reach. Most of the discussions are expected to centre on an agreement to limit global warming to 2C. Assessments of the more than 180 national plans that have been submitted by countries suggest that if they were implemented the world would see a rise of nearer to 3C. Major points of contention include:

- **Limits:** The UN has endorsed a goal of limiting global warming to no more than 2C over pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. But more than 100 poorer countries and low-lying, small-island states are calling for a tougher goal of 1.5C.
- **Fairness:** Developing nations say industrialised countries should do more to cut emissions, having polluted for much longer. But rich countries insist that the burden must be shared to reach the 2C target.
- **Money:** One of the few firm decisions from the 2009 UN climate conference in Copenhagen was a pledge from rich economies to provide \$100 billion (93 billion euros) a year in financial support for poor countries from 2020 to develop technology and build infrastructure to cut emissions. Where that money will come from and how it will be distributed has yet to be agreed.

(Source: [BBC](#))



## Joint letter to the European Commission on better regulation

A joint letter to European Commission First President Frans Timmermans on EU better regulation was published last week. The letter was jointly signed by 27 ministers from 19 EU member states including the UK Secretary of State for Business, Sajid Javid. In the letter, ministers call for the introduction of EU reduction targets in particular burdensome areas. (Source: [BIS](#))

## EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement

The EU and Vietnam have approved a new free trade agreement that will ease trade of products and services between Europe and the Vietnamese market. In practice the deal means 99% of tariffs will be eliminated – worth £20 million a year for UK businesses exporting to Vietnam. The agreement followed two and a half years of intense negotiations between the 28-nation European Union and Vietnam, whose two-way trade has grown three-fold to 28 billion euros in the last 10 years. The EU and Vietnam in August reached an agreement in principle and only had a few legal hurdles to overcome to finalise the deal. The EU is holding separate talks with two other ASEAN members, Malaysia and Thailand, to secure similar free trade agreements. The agreement is the first that the EU has concluded with a developing country and will remove more than 99 percent of tariffs on goods traded between the two economies over a period of up to seven years. Vietnam exports mobile phones and other electronics, footwear and textiles, and agricultural products including coffee, rice and seafood to the EU. EU exports to Vietnam, meanwhile, are dominated by high-tech products including electrical machinery and equipment, aircraft, vehicles and pharmaceuticals.

(Source: [EU Business](#))

## 18 month programme of the Council published

The 18 month programme of the Council (Trio programme), prepared by the future Netherlands, Slovak and Maltese Presidencies and the High Representative was published. The programme covers the period from January 2016 to June 2017. In establishing the Council's work programme, the three Presidencies have been guided by the priorities of the Strategic Agenda and recent conclusions of the European Council. They have put particular emphasis on the first pillar of the strategic agenda, since inclusive, smart and sustainable growth, jobs and competitiveness remain the top priority over the next eighteen months. The **priorities** of the Trio programme are presented under the following headings:

1. A Union of jobs, growth and competitiveness
    - Single Market
    - Entrepreneurship and Job Creation
    - Investing in the future
    - Global attractiveness
    - EMU
  2. A Union that empowers and protects all its citizens
  3. Towards an Energy Union with a forward-looking Climate Policy
  4. A Union of Freedom, Security and Justice
  5. The Union as a strong Global Actor
- (Source: [Council of the European Union](#))

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## ACEA – Economic and Market Report – Q3 2015

The European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA) regularly releases an updated Economic and Market Report with the latest figures on the economy, registrations, production and trade. The Economic and Market Report for Quarter 3 2015 covers the global economic situation, but also provides figures on the registration, production and trade of passenger cars and commercial vehicles. It can be downloaded [here](#).

### Emission testing

ACEA has also published a [briefing document](#) on misconceptions of emissions testing. ACEA re-confirmed the industry's commitment to further reducing the environmental footprint of its vehicles and manufacturing. Europe's automobile manufacturers also highlighted their long-standing

support for the development of a new test to measure pollutant emissions under real driving conditions (RDE). (Source: [ACEA](#))

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## No EU reform deal expected at December summit

David Cameron has said that he does not expect an agreement to be reached on his EU reform aims at December's summit of European leaders. The prime minister said "good progress" had been made in the talks, but the scale of the UK's aims meant he would not get an agreement "in one go". European Council President Donald Tusk said the summit "should pave the way for a deal in February". The UK's PM has promised an in/out vote on EU membership by the end of 2017. He is said to want to hold an early vote but he has said he will not set the timing of the poll until the negotiations, on Britain's terms of membership of the 28-member bloc, are concluded. (Source: [BBC](#))

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## Week ahead

### European Commission

Monday 30 November – Friday 11 December

- COP21 - European Commission will participate in the 21st sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

### European Council

Thursday 10 – Friday 11 December

- Transport, Telecommunications & Energy Council
- The Council is expected to hold a policy debate on social aspects in road transport, to discuss the upcoming review of EU telecoms rules and to discuss the draft directive on network and information security.

Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- European Semester: the Commission will present to the Council the annual growth survey for 2016

### European Parliament

Tuesday 10 December

- IMCO – The Single Market Strategy and reducing barriers and the costs for business within the Single Market