

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 10 December

Proposed plan for vocational training in Europe over the next ten years

European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, Androulla Vassiliou, has welcomed an adoption of the Bruges Communiqué, a package of objectives and actions to increase the quality of vocational training in Europe by making it more attractive, accessible and relevant to the needs of the labour market. Meeting in Bruges, Belgium, ministers of education of 33 European countries, representatives of employers and unions and the European Commission discussed and confirmed shared objectives for vocational education and training for 2011-2020. In addition, they agreed an action plan with measures at national level and support at European level for the coming four years. The Bruges Communiqué is the latest revision of the Copenhagen Process for European co-operation on vocational education and training. Vocational education and training enables people to acquire the knowledge, skills and competences they need on the labour market, whether for a particular job or for a broader range of occupations. At present, about half of all students in the EU enrolled in upper secondary education participate in vocational programmes. There are, however, significant differences between countries with shares ranging from less than 15% in some to almost 80% in others. (Source: European Commission)

europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=P/10/1673&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiliLanguage=fr

Cancun summit delegates try to form a globally binding climate deal

Delegates from 193 nations are meeting in Cancun, Mexico, to advance international climate change talks following unsuccessful negotiations in Copenhagen last year. Negotiators at the UN talks in Cancun want

to set up a new fund to help developing countries combat climate change, work out ways to protect tropical forests, help poor nations adapt to climate change and agree a new mechanism to share clean technologies. Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Chris Huhne, representing the UK government at the summit, believes the talks are of vital importance not just domestically but globally. Mr. Huhne said: "I want high ambition. I want a legally binding global deal to keep global temperature increase at 2 degrees or less. The answer has to be compromise. We cannot do everything here. But we can make progress and restore momentum to the global process." (Source: DECC)

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/091210_huhnesp/091210_huhnesp.aspx



Commission launches website to help consumers choose energy-efficient vehicles



The European Commission has launched a website to help public authorities and consumers choose the best available energy-efficient vehicle. The Clean Vehicle Portal supports a new directive on the promotion of clean and energy efficient vehicles, requiring that from this month all purchases of vehicles for public transport services take into account energy consumption, CO₂ emissions and pollutant emissions. It provides information on legislation for clean and energy-efficient vehicles on EU level and in all Member States; it provides access to technical data in the largest vehicle database in Europe; and it facilitates joint procurement. The directive requires the public sector to use their purchasing power to promote clean and energy-efficient vehicles. The aim of the Commission is to stimulate the market for clean and energy-efficient vehicles and to prompt development and investment by the industry. The development of the Clean Vehicle Portal was managed by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI). (Source: Clean Vehicle Europe)

www.cleanvehicle.eu

Week ahead

European Commission
No relevant activity

Council of Ministers
13 December
General Affairs Council
Ministers will discuss the fifth evaluation report on economic, social, and territorial cohesion as well as cohesion policy and the implementation of “*Europe 2020*” strategy.

European Parliament – Meetings of Committees (Strasbourg)
13 December – ECON
Short selling and certain aspects of credit default swaps – Consideration of draft report

European Parliament – Plenary Session (Strasbourg)
13 December - Energy Efficiency Action Plan – Report
15 December – Energy Efficiency Action Plan - Vote