

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 14 December

European new car registrations down 10.3% in November

Figures published by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, shows that new car registrations dropped 10.3% in November 2012 compared to November 2011 to 926,486 units. This is the fourteenth consecutive month that new car registrations have been down in the EU. November new car registrations were up 11.3% in the UK, while declining in all other significant markets: -3.5% in Germany, -19.2% in France, -20.1% in Italy and -20.3% in Spain. From January to November, the EU recorded 11,255,094 new cars, or 7.6% less than in the same period a year ago. The UK was the only major market to expand (+5.4%), with Germany (-1.7%), Spain (-12.6%), France (-13.8%) and Italy (-19.7%) all contracting. (Source: ACEA)

http://www.acea.be/index.php/news/news_detail/passenger_car_registrations_-7.6_over_11_months_-10.3_in_november

Commission releases new Industrial Performance Scoreboard

The European Commission has released a new Industrial Performance Scoreboard in an effort to facilitate reform and policy learning. The Scoreboard looks at industrial performance in five key areas – manufacturing productivity, export performance, innovation and sustainability, the business environment and infrastructure, and finance and investment. Based on key industrial indicators, countries are classified in three main groups. First, the consistent performers, whose industries are dominated by technologically advanced firms with highly-skilled workers. Second, the uneven performers, countries that show strong performance in some areas but that must make up ground in some others. And finally, the 'catching-up' group, whose competitiveness is affected by weak innovation capacity and knowledge transfer. The 'consistent performers' are Germany, Denmark, Finland, Sweden,

Austria, Ireland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Belgium and France. Their research and innovation systems perform well over a number of indicators. The 'uneven performers' comprises of Estonia, Slovenia, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Malta, Cyprus and Luxembourg. These countries tend to show uneven performance, good against some criteria, but below the average against others. Most countries in this group also have in common weaker research and innovation systems and some severe constraints related to the business environment, although in each country there are examples of innovative, internationally successful companies or even clusters. The 'catching-up' group consists of Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Latvia and Lithuania. Although they have substantial strengths in several areas and there are clear signs of the catching-up process, each economy in this group has considerable room for improvement. (Source: European Commission)

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/magazine/articles/competitiveness-energy-environment/article_11050_en.htm



Commission launches air quality and EU ETS consultations

The European Commission has launched a consultation on options for revision of the EU Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution. The objective of the consultation is to gather views on the review of the EU's Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution and on the possible options identified by such a review for a comprehensive air pollution policy package that would

aim to ensure full implementation of the existing legal framework and make further progress to reduce the negative impacts of air pollution in the longer term. This consultation marks the final stage of a broad consultation on the review of EU air policy foreseen to end in 2013 at the latest. The timeframe for the consultation is from December 10 2012 to March 4 2013. In addition, the Commission has launched a consultation on structural options to strengthen the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). The consultation will remain open until end of February 2013. (Source: European Commission)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/air_pollution_en.htm

Agreement reached on the 'Doha Gateway'

A new package of measures named the 'Doha Gateway' has been agreed by governments. The measures are aimed at reaching a global climate deal by 2015 for implementation in 2020. Governments agreed that 'elements of a negotiating text' for the new global climate deal should be available by the end of 2014, so that a draft negotiating text can be ready by May 2015. Commenting on the news, European Climate Commissioner, Connie Hedegaard, stated: 'In Doha, we have crossed the bridge from the old climate regime to the new system. We are now on our way to the 2015 global deal'. Countries have also agreed to "identify and explore" in 2013 ways of raising ambition before 2020. But no real agreement was reached on raising ambition pre-2020 outside of the Kyoto Protocol, even though countries promised to do so as part of the Durban Platform.

(Source: ENDS)

<http://www.endseurope.com/30200/countries-will-draft-parts-of-new-climate-deal-by-2014?referrer=bulletin&DCMP=EMC-ENDS-EUROPE-DAILY>



Week ahead

European Commission

19 December - The Commission will propose a blueprint for a new culture of entrepreneurship in Europe

Council of Ministers

17 December – Environment Council
The Council will have an orientation debate on the proposal for a decision on a general Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 "Living well, within the limits of our planet". Ministers will also have an exchange of views on "greening the European Semester".

20 December – Transport, Telecommunications & Energy Council.

The Council will try to agree a general approach on a proposed update of the common rules on periodic roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles.

European Parliament (Committee & constituency week)

Committee agendas available here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/full-list.html>