

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 16 December

Commission publishes Energy Roadmap 2050

The European Commission has published its Energy Roadmap 2050. The Commission's plan is based on its assumption that to achieve the goal of cutting emissions by over 80% by 2050, Europe's energy production will have to be almost all carbon-free. The Roadmap identifies five key outcomes. The Commission views the decarbonisation of the energy system as technically and economically feasible; higher energy efficiency and rising shares of renewables are necessary to meet the CO₂ targets in 2050; early investment in energy infrastructure made now for up until 2030 will cost less in the long run; investment now will contain the increase in prices of electricity; and finally that economies of scale across the energy sector are needed, including completing the common energy market. EU Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger said: "Only a new energy model will make our system secure, competitive and sustainable in the long-run. We now have a European framework for the necessary policy measures to be taken in order to secure the right investments." (Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1543&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



Positive outcome at global climate change talks

Global climate change talks in Durban have resulted in positive moves towards a new international

agreement on reducing carbon emissions. The agreement reached over a package of accords extended the Kyoto Protocol, agreed the format of a fund to help developing nations implement climate change measures, as well as mapping out a path to a legally binding agreement on emissions reductions. Talks will commence in 2012 on how a new legally-binding treaty will be decided upon by 2015, and enforced from 2020. The process will commence under the agreed 'Durban Platform for Enhanced Action', setting in motion the development of "a new protocol, another legal instrument or agreed outcome with legal force" applicable under the UN climate convention. UK Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne MP said: "We've managed to bring the major emitters like the US, India and China into a roadmap which will secure an overarching global deal". (Source: Euractiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/un-climate-talks-wrap-2020-global-pact-news-509607>

Canada pulls out of Kyoto protocol

Canada has become the first country to withdraw from of the Kyoto Protocol. The announcement came on the back of the Durban agreement which saw the extension of the existing Kyoto Protocol extended for five years as well as new elements to cover high energy intensive companies, such as oil and gas companies in the Canadian energy sector. Canadian Environment Minister Peter Kent said: "To meet the targets under Kyoto for 2012 would be the equivalent of either removing every car truck, all-terrain vehicle, tractor, ambulance, police car and vehicle off every kind of Canadian road". (Source: Euractiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/canada-country-quit-kyoto-protocol-news-509686>

EU agrees to open trade negotiations with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia

Ministers meeting at the EU Foreign Affairs Council have agreed to opening trade negotiations with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The Council decision provides a mandate to the European Commission to start negotiations to establish 'deep and comprehensive free trade areas' (DCFTAs). DCFTAs will go beyond removing only tariffs to cover all regulatory issues relevant to trade, such as investment protection and public procurement. EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht said: "We are offering Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia progressive economic integration into the EU single market and want to improve the conditions for market access to the EU for these four WTO members as they engage in a process of democratic and economic reform. Our door is open for other Southern Mediterranean partners once the same conditions are met." (Source: European Commission)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1545&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>



ENVI: Vote on the adoption of a draft opinion – Energy Efficiency
ITRE: Consideration of amendments on energy efficiency
TRAN: Exchange of Views with Commissioner Kallas

Week ahead

European Commission

Monday 19 December - DG Internal Market and Services, Directive regarding Modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive

Council of Ministers

Monday 19 December – Environment Council, including discussion on the outcome of the Durban Climate change talks, indirect land use change related to biofuels.

European Parliament (Committees - Brussels)

Monday 19 December
ECON: Consideration of amendments on the Energy Taxation Directive

Monday 19 – Tuesday 20 December