

## EP Environment Committee rejects proposal on new emissions testing standards

The European Parliament's Environment Committee voted this week to reject a proposal from the European Commission, and member states, on new emissions testing standards for diesel cars. A solution drafted by committee MEPs to object to the proposal was passed with 40 votes in favour, 9 objections and 13 abstentions. On 28 October, the Commission struck an agreement with member states on rules mandating new emissions testing standards for diesel cars. The executive proposed rules for real driving emissions tests (RDE) to go into effect in 2016, and measure the emissions of cars once they're in use, scoring more accurate results than tests done in labs. New EU-wide regulation mandating RDE testing for diesel cars has been in the works for several years. The European Parliament will vote on the resolution during a plenary session in the week of 18-21 January. (Source: [Euractiv](#))



## ACEA – Passenger car registrations +13.7%

Figures released by the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA) show that the EU passenger car market recorded a very strong increase (+13.7%), marking the 27th consecutive month of growth and totalling 1,085,259 units. All major passenger car markets rose strongly during the month, significantly contributing to the positive outcome of the EU perimeter. Spain (+25.4%), Italy (+23.5%) and France (+11.3%) posted double-digit percentage gains, followed by Germany (+8.9%) which also performed better than in November 2014. The UK market recovered in November (+3.8%) as well, after showing decline in October. Over eleven months in 2015 new passenger car registrations increased by 8.7%, reaching 12,603,855 units and surpassing 2014 full year volumes. Nevertheless, this result is only now reaching the levels registered in immediate post-crisis years. All major markets sustained the overall upturn, with Spain (+20.9%) and Italy (+15.5%), posting double-digit growth, followed by the UK (+6.2%), France (+6.2%) and Germany (+5.4%). (Source: [ACEA](#))

## Juncker says EU wants to find 'fair deal' for UK

The European Union wants to reach a "fair deal" for the UK and other EU countries, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has said. Mr Juncker was speaking as David Cameron prepares to discuss his reform plans at a summit of EU leaders. Mr Cameron will seek to convince sceptical EU leaders to accept his plans to limit benefits for migrants. There have been warnings that most EU nations, including France and Germany, are against it. Thursday's talks over dinner are the first time EU leaders will discuss the PM's reforms in detail. Mr Cameron wants to get a new deal for the UK before putting it to an in/out referendum by the end of 2017. EU Council President Donald Tusk has called for a "serious debate with no taboos" about Mr Cameron's demand. (Source: [BBC](#))

## EU strikes deal on strict new data protection reform

EU negotiators completed talks on a major protection reform this week that will tighten privacy laws and determine how companies handle consumers' personal data. Under the new regulation, users can request companies to apply the right to be forgotten and delete personal data if it's no longer relevant. Compared to the 1995 directive, more kinds of personal information, including genetic data about health, are grouped as 'sensitive' and demand stricter privacy handling. Companies can be hit with fines of up to four percent of their global turnover if they don't comply with the rules. Negotiators previously clashed over the threshold for sanctions—the Parliament wanted a maximum threshold of five percent of global turnover, while the Commission and member states pushed for a two percent ceiling. The final draft of the regulation to come out of negotiations still needs to be approved by plenary vote in early 2016. EU member states have two years to implement the regulation once it's approved.

(Source: [Euractiv](#))

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## Eurozone growth 'slows' in December

Growth in the eurozone economy slowed slightly in December from the previous month, new monthly figures suggest. The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) figure for December fell to 54, down from November's figure of 54.2, according to Markit. Any figure above 50 indicates growth. Eurozone inflation was also revised up to 0.2% in November, down from the previous month, and down 7.3% compared with the same period the year before. The greatest price increase in November was for unprocessed food, which rose 2.7% - however, that is lower than October's rise of 3.2%. Despite eurozone economic growth dipping in December, the last three months of 2015 saw the strongest quarterly growth in more than four years, Markit said, with the services sector showing its largest monthly gain since November 2010. The pace of growth in the manufacturing industry sped up at the fastest rate in 20 months, outpacing the growth in the services sector for the first time in more than a year - although costs and wages in manufacturing continued to rise.

(Source: [BBC](#))

## Week ahead

### European Parliament

Tuesday 22 December

ENVI – Exchange of views with the Commissioner for Climate Action & Energy on the outcome of COP21 on climate change

