

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 21 March

ENVI committee agrees Council position on sound level of motor vehicles

The European Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee has formally agreed on the Council's first reading position on a proposal for a Regulation on the sound level of motor vehicles. The vote will now be put to Parliament as a whole in Plenary on 2 April 2014. Once formally adopted the Regulation will be applicable two years after its entry into force. The agreement sees the introduction of a new test method for measuring noise emissions and includes the setting of noise limit values for the different vehicle categories. Key points in the legislation include:

- Manufacturers and distributors should display information on noise levels of vehicles at the point of sale and in printed and electronic promotional material such as brochures, leaflets and catalogues.
- A similar label to the one currently used for information on CO₂ emissions, fuel-consumption and tyre-noise should in future inform consumers about the sound emissions of a vehicle.
- Public authorities will have to encourage the use of quieter vehicles through information campaigns in order to reduce road traffic noise.
- Electric and hybrid electric vehicles will be equipped in the coming years with Acoustic Vehicle Alerting Systems (AVAS).
- Research work will be carried out in order to assess the impact of road surfaces in the levels of motor vehicle noise.

(Source: European Parliament)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>

TRAN committee adopts report on maximum weights and dimensions of vehicles

The European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism has adopted a draft report by MEP Jörg

Leichtfried (S&D, Austria) on the revision of the Council Directive 96/53/EC to set new rules for the maximum weights and dimensions of road vehicles in the EU. Under the adopted new rules, truck cabins can be made longer if designed to cut emissions, e.g. by improving aerodynamics; or to prevent accidents, e.g. by reducing blind spots. Trucks and busses with low-carbon alternatives could exceed the current maximum weight by up to one tonne, depending on the weight of the alternative system. Moreover, trucks for use in combined road-rail or road-ship transport operations can be made 15 cm longer, to make it easier to load standard 45-foot containers. The report was adopted with 35 votes in favour, 4 against and 2 abstentions. An indicative Plenary sitting has been scheduled for 14 April 2014.

(Source: European Parliament)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>



EU new car registrations grow 8% in February

Figures published by ACEA, the European Automobile Manufacturers Association, show that in February 2014 demand for new passenger cars in the EU increased for the sixth consecutive month, with a rise of 8.0% in registrations. However, in absolute figures, the total of 861,058 units registered marked the second lowest result to date for a month of February since ACEA began the series in 2003 with the enlarged EU. France was the only major market to face a downturn (-1.4%). All other significant markets contributed positively to the overall 8.0% expansion of

the EU market, with growth ranging from +3.0% in the UK, +4.3% in Germany, +8.6% in Italy to +17.8% in Spain. From January to February, new passenger car registrations increased by 6.6%, totalling 1,796,787 units. Two months into the year, most major markets posted growth contributing to the overall 6.6% upturn of the EU market. Demand for new passenger cars increased by 5.7% in Germany, 6.0% in Italy, 6.1% in the UK and 13.1% in Spain. France (-0.5%) was the only significant market where new passenger car registrations declined in this period.

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/passenger-car-registrations-6.6-over-two-months-8.0-in-february>

EUCAR publishes ideas on implementation of Horizon 2020

EUCAR, the European Council for Automotive R&D, has published a paper on ideas on implementation of Horizon 2020. EUCAR states that for industrial research and innovation themes, including automotive and road transport, the Commission should formulate calls for proposals with more explicit guidance for the scope and size of projects, reflecting the priorities of industry and stakeholders, thereby also enhancing opportunities for SMEs and new entrants. It is also recommended to introduce the single stage evaluation procedure for such calls, reflecting the practice in the contractual PPPs. EUCAR also call for the expansion of the Fast-Track to Innovation scheme, to ensure its industrial focus and accessibility for all industrial beneficiary types and introduce a finer thematic focus, enabling a critical mass in key areas of industrial research and innovation.

(Source: EUCAR)

<http://www.eucar.be/news-and-events/Position%20Paper%20Horizon%202020>



Position on simplifying transfer of motor vehicles in the Single Market adopted

The European Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) Committee has adopted an updated position on simplifying the transfer of motor vehicles within the Single Market. The updated IMCO position is scheduled to be voted on by Parliament as a whole on 15 April in the Plenary session in Strasbourg. The dossier will then be passed on to the new European Parliament following the elections in May. The position proposes that citizens will have 30 days to re-register their cars or motorbikes when they move from their normal residence to a new EU member state. The position also states that all Member States are required to recognise one another's' roadworthiness test certificates and that further inspections would only be permitted if: (i) a vehicle was seriously damaged; (ii) a vehicle did not have a valid roadworthiness certificate or (iii) the data given in the application and the vehicle register did not match.

(Source: European Parliament)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>

Week ahead

European Commission

Thursday 26 March

EU-US Summit, Brussels

European Parliament

Information not yet available (w/c 24 March will be a Committee and Constituency week)