

## NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 8/2021

### Road transport – Next-generation tachographs (technical specifications)

This measure sets new technical specifications for ‘smart’ tachographs, to be fitted in vehicles as of August 2023. The new specifications aim to improve monitoring of driving times and rest periods, help enforce rules on cabotage and posting of workers, record the position of the vehicle at border crossings and upon loading and unloading and make it more difficult to tamper with the tachographs. The European Commission is asking for stakeholders’ feedback regarding the measures until 25 March 2021: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12829-Technical-specifications-for-the-construction-and-type-approval-of-the-second-version-of-the-smart-tachograph>

### MEPs and Vice-President Vestager: Discussions on Digital Markets Act and Digital Services Act

The Industry Committee (ITRE) of the European Parliament held a discussion with the Executive Vice-President Margarethe Vestager on the two dossiers “Digital Markets Act” and “Digital Services Act”. Vestager emphasized that a fair, competitive and protected digital space should be created across Europe in which companies can also grow. The principle of the country of origin remains at the heart of the internal market in the coming regulations. Many deficits should also be corrected, such as obligations for platforms to block illegal content. It should also not be possible to offer dangerous goods online in Europe. MEPs stressed that the monopoly of large digital companies is damaging to competition. Precise control mechanisms have to be worked out, such as the sharing of metadata, in order to guarantee protection for consumers: [https://emeeting.europarl.europa.eu/emeeting/committee/en/agenda/202103/ITRE?meeting=ITRE-2021-0304\\_1&session=03-04-16-30](https://emeeting.europarl.europa.eu/emeeting/committee/en/agenda/202103/ITRE?meeting=ITRE-2021-0304_1&session=03-04-16-30)

### Air quality: Standards needed for all air pollutants with health impacts, say MEPs

Environment Committee MEPs voted to request better enforcement of current air quality standards and to call for new standards for non-regulated pollutants. The resolution says that the EU clean air policy has been successful in driving down emissions and concentrations of most air pollutants in Europe. At the same time, they have been only partially effective in reducing air pollution and curbing its adverse effects on health, quality of life, and the environment. It also highlights that a high number of member states still do not fully comply with current air quality standards in spite of the start of infringement proceedings by the Commission and court orders demanding compliance with the AAQ Directives: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/de/press-room/20210301IPR98961/air-quality-standards-needed-for-all-air-pollutants-with-health-impacts-say-meps>