

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 26/2021

Environment ministers discuss the “Fit for 55” package

Slovenia hosted an informal meeting of environment and climate change ministers. For the first time, they exchanged views on the vital legislative package "Fit for 55", which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030. The ministers welcomed the preparation of the European Commission's package and stressed that it provided a good basis for further coordination. Fairness, solidarity, ambition and efficiency among the EU Member States should be the guiding principles: <https://slovenian-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/news/environment-ministers-at-a-meeting-in-slovenia-discuss-the-fit-for-55-package-and-the-cop26-international-climate-change-conference/>

CLEPA: European Commission chooses haste over prudence

In a recently published statement, the European Association of Automotive Suppliers (CLEPA) stressed with regard to the “Fit for 55” package that a 100% reduction target by 2035, for emissions coming out of the vehicle tailpipe, de facto prescribes what to produce: electric vehicles only. According to CLEPA, it discards the contribution that renewable sustainable fuels can make: <https://clepa.eu/mediaroom/green-deal-and-cars-european-commission-chooses-haste-over-prudence-newsletter-editorial-july-2021/>

Road haulage charging: Transport MEPs give green light

A provisional deal on new road charging rules for trucks to transition from time-based to distance-based charging was approved in the Transport and Tourism Committee. The aim of the new rules is to move road charging from a time-based model to distance-based or an actual kilometres-driven system, to better reflect the polluter-pays and user-pays principles: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210707IPR07912/road-haulage-charging-transport-meps-give-green-light>

ACEA 2021 Progress Report: Making the transition to zero-emission mobility

The 2021 update of the annual ‘Making the Transition to Zero-Emission Mobility’ report published by the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA) covers the progress made in the European Union on the key enabling factors for alternatively-powered passenger cars and vans: <https://www.acea.auto/publication/2021-progress-report-making-the-transition-to-zero-emission-mobility/>

Green, safe and smart transport networks: Additional €242 million for transport infrastructure studies

The EU is supporting 68 studies to prepare the ground for projects that will build missing transport links and eliminate bottlenecks across the continent, enhance sustainable transport and create jobs. The € 242.2 in funding from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) contributes to the European Commission's commitment to delivering a transport network that is environmentally performant, safe for its users and driven by smart solutions: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure/news/2021-07-15-green-safe-and-smart-transport-networks_en

Taxation: Historic global agreement to ensure fairer taxation of multinational enterprises

The European Commission welcomes the historic global agreement endorsed by G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, which “will bring fairness and stability to the international corporate tax framework. This will include a reallocation of taxing rights that will mean the world's largest companies will have to pay tax wherever they conduct business. At the same time, a global minimum effective tax rate of at least 15% will help curb aggressive tax planning and stop the corporate tax race to the bottom”: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_3582

Digital sovereignty: Commission kick-starts alliances for Semiconductors and industrial cloud technologies

The European Commission kick-starts two new Industrial Alliances: the Alliance for Processors and Semiconductor technologies, and the European Alliance for Industrial Data, Edge and Cloud. The two new alliances will advance the next generation of microchips and industrial cloud/edge computing technologies and provide the EU with the capabilities needed to strengthen its critical digital infrastructures, products and services. The alliances will bring together businesses, Member State representatives, academia, users, as well as research and technology organisations: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_3733

Commission: Annual Report on European SMEs 2020/2021

The first part of the recently published report reviews the impact of the pandemic on EU SMEs in 2020, and the likely performance of EU SMEs in 2021, after providing a brief overview of their pre-pandemic performance. The second part of the report focuses on the digitalisation of SMEs: <https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/46062>

The Alliance of European Car Dealers and Repairers (AECDR) represents and promotes the interests of 57,500 franchised dealers and authorised repairers. In total these companies employ 1.175,000 people.