

## NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 2/2022

### **EU Taxonomy: EU Commission presents draft for the proposal for a Complementary Delegated Act covering certain nuclear and gas activities and begins expert consultations**

On 31 December, the EU Commission published a draft for the proposal for a Delegated Act regarding the EU Taxonomy and started consultations with the Member States Expert Group on Sustainable Finance and the Platform on Sustainable Finance. In the draft proposal, gas and nuclear are classified as transition technologies in the framework of the EU Taxonomy. The Commission foresees the introduction of specific conditions that must be met in order to maintain this classification. The consultation period ends on 12 January, the Commission will publish the proposal at the end of January: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_2](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_2)

### **EU Commission and European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) launch EU SME Fund**

On 10 January, the EU Commission and EUIPO have presented a new fund to protect intellectual property of EU SMEs to support them in the Covid-19 recovery as well as in the twin transition (digital and green). The EU SME Fund has a budget of 47 Mio. € and offers support regarding fees and administrative procedures for the registration of patents: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_181](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_181)

### **Rise in energy prices leads to high annual inflation rate in the Eurozone**

Eurostat, the statistical office in the European Union, published an estimate on 7 January showing that the annual inflation rate in the euro area is expected to be 5%—its highest level ever recorded—in December 2021. In November, inflation in the euro area had already beaten a record, reaching high of 4.9%. Looking at the main components of inflation, Eurostat states that the annual rate for energy is expected to be 26% in December 2021. Though the current level of inflation in the euro area is well above the European Central Bank's (ECB) target of 2% inflation, the monetary institution believes that this increase is temporary: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/14083883/2-07012022-AP-EN.pdf/49039c42-31ea-3513-8307-eece31d6b25a?t=1641509487863>

*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.*