

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 28/2022

European Commission publishes 2021 Annual Burden Survey

On 29 July, the Commission has presented the [2021 Annual Burden Survey](#), which presents examples of simplification of EU rules in several areas such as competition, transport and mobility, and the single market. The survey is based on the “one in, one out” approach and is part of the Better Regulation Agenda and Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT), the Commission's regulatory approach established in 2012 for evidence-based and transparent policymaking: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_4745

EU renews economic sanctions against Russia for another six months

On 26 July, the EU Member States represented in the Council have decided to prolong by six months, until 31 January 2023, the restrictive measures targeting specific sectors of the Russian economy. The sanctions currently comprise restrictions on finance, energy, technology and dual-use goods, industry, transport and luxury goods: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/07/26/russia-eu-renews-economic-sanctions-over-russia-s-military-aggression-against-ukraine-for-further-six-months/>

Member States in the EU Council reach agreement to reduce gas demand by 15% next winter

On 26 July, member states reached a political agreement on a voluntary reduction of natural gas demand by 15% this winter. The Council regulation also foresees the possibility to trigger a ‘Union alert’ on security of supply, in which case the gas demand reduction would become mandatory. The Council specified some exemptions and possibilities to request a derogation from the mandatory reduction target, in order to reflect the particular situations of member states and ensure that the gas reductions are effective in increasing security of supply in the EU: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/07/26/member-states-commit-to-reducing-gas-demand-by-15-next-winter/>

European Commission publishes results of the 2022 Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI)

On 28 July, the EU Commission presented the results of the 2022 [Digital Economy and Society Index](#) (DESI), which monitors the progress made in EU Member States in digital. During the Covid pandemic, Member States have been making progress in digitalisation but still struggle to close the gaps in digital skills, the digital transformation of SMEs, and the roll-out of advanced 5G networks. In particular the adoption of key digital technologies by businesses, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data, remains low: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_4560

European Commission opens consultation on initiative to measure greenhouse gas emissions from transport

On 28 July, the Commission has launched an open public consultation on a new initiative that is supposed to facilitate measuring the environmental performance of different transport options. CountEmissions EU will offer a framework for calculating transport and logistics-related door-to door greenhouse gas emissions. As announced in the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, the initiative seeks to incentivise transport operators to measure emissions and benchmark their services using a common methodology. The consultation is open until 17 October: https://transport.ec.europa.eu/news/sustainable-mobility-commission-seeks-views-initiative-measure-greenhouse-gas-emissions-transport-2022-07-29_en

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.