

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 7/2023

European Parliament approves CO2 emission targets for new cars and vans

On 14 February, MEPs approved the agreement reached with the Council on revised CO2 emission performance standards for new cars and vans in line with the “Fit for 55” package. The new legislation sets the path towards zero CO2 emissions for new passenger cars and light commercial vehicles in 2035 (an EU fleet-wide target to reduce CO2 emissions produced by new cars and vans by 100% compared to 2021). Intermediate emissions reduction targets for 2030 are set at 55% for cars and 50% for vans: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230210IPR74715/fit-for-55-zero-co2-emissions-for-new-cars-and-vans-in-2035>

European Commission publishes proposal for new rules regarding the CO2 emission performance standards for new heavy-duty vehicles

On 14 February, the European Commission presented new CO2 emissions standards for heavy-duty vehicles that will apply as of 2030. The proposals are part of the “Fit for 55” package. Heavy-duty vehicles account for about 2% of traffic on European roads but are responsible for more than 25% of road transport emissions. The new requirements are to apply to trucks weighing five tons or more as well as buses in local and long-distance traffic. The Commission proposes to phase in stricter CO2 emission standards compared to 2019 levels with certified CO2 emissions for nearly all new HDVs. Also, all new buses shall be zero-emission by 2030: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_762

European Parliament adopts resolution on “Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age”

On 16 February, MEPs adopted a resolution in response to the Commission’s new industrial plan. They highlight the importance of enhancing the EU’s manufacturing strength in strategic technologies like solar and wind energy, heat pumps, and batteries. Parliament also points out that access to strategic raw materials is essential to implement the green and digital transformation. In their resolution, MEPs call for simplified and more flexible state aid rules. The Parliament is strongly supportive of creating a European Sovereignty Fund. In addition, Parliament calls on the Commission to take a stronger stance on unfair competition and refers in this context to the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA): <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230210IPR74806/green-deal-industrial-plan-securing-the-eu-s-clean-tech-leadership>

European Parliament votes in favour of draft position on “Chips Act” and “Chips Joint Undertaking”

On 15 February, MEPs set their negotiating position on two draft bills: one on the “Chips Act”, which aims to bolster technological capacity and innovation, and a second one on the “Chips Joint Undertaking” to increase investments. On the Chips Act, MEPs endorsed the text adopted by the Industry Committee, which focuses on next-generation semiconductors and quantum chips and on creating a network of centres to address the skills shortage. In a separate vote, MEPs adopted the Chips Joint Undertaking proposal, implementing the measures foreseen under a “Chips for Europe” initiative. The scheme aims to support large-scale capacity building through investment into EU-wide and openly accessible research, development and innovation infrastructure: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/de/press-room/20230210IPR74801/semiconductors-meps-ready-to-start-talks-on-new-law-to-boost-eu-chips-industry>

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.