

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 5/2023

European Commission publishes Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age

On 1 February, the European Commission published the EU's response to the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), as already announced by Commission President von der Leyen at the World Economic Forum in Davos. The core component of the new industrial plan is the "Net-Zero Industry Act" to promote the production of key green technologies in the EU. Dependencies on third countries in industrial value chains are to be reduced and EU standards strengthened globally. To this end, the Commission wants to create a regulatory environment and an infrastructure that gives companies in strategically important sectors more room for innovation: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_510

President of the European Automobile Manufacturers's Association (ACEA) criticises Euro 7 proposal

During a press conference on 31 January, ACEA's president Luca de Meo commented on the competitiveness of EU industry and pointed out that the US and China were likely to have a competitive advantage in the value chain for electric vehicles in the future. In this context, he strongly criticised the Euro 7-proposal for putting too many constraints on the automobile industry and leading to increases in costs that could ultimately diminish customer demand. However, ACEA believes that the Green Deal Industry Plan could be a first step to help keep investment in the EU: <https://www.acea.auto/press-release/eu-auto-industry-chief-calls-for-ambitious-automotive-industrial-policy/>

European Parliament: Progress on Data Act proposal

On 31 January, a compromise proposal by the Swedish Council Presidency on the Data Act was discussed in the Council Working Party on Telecommunications. The Council is expected to adopt its general approach in March. Once the Parliament has found its position, trilogue negotiations can start in April. Following the vote in the Legal Affairs and Internal Market Committees (JURI/IMCO) last week, a draft opinion on the dossier has now been adopted in the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) as well. The lead Industry Committee (ITRE) will vote on the draft report on 9 February. The committee is then expected to submit its text to the plenary for adoption on 13 March: [https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2022/0047\(COD\)&l=en](https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2022/0047(COD)&l=en)

Eurostat publishes data on new vehicle registrations in 2021

According to a Eurostat study published on 31 January, the number of battery-only electric passenger cars in the EU countries reached 1.9 million (+76% compared with 2020: 1.1 million). The highest rate of increase in battery-only electric passenger cars in the period 2013-2021 was noted between 2019 and 2020 (+83%), followed by the increase in 2021 compared with 2020. The share of battery-only electric passenger cars in the total number of passenger cars grew from 0.02% in 2013 to 0.76% in 2021: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/DDN-20230131-2>