

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 9/2023

CO2 emissions: ACEA calls for resolution to current impasse

In a recently published press release, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) calls upon the European Commission and the Council to come to a resolution to the current impasse on the EU legislation on CO2 emissions from cars and vans, which was due to be signed into law in early March. ACEA takes note that the final CO2 deal reached last October between the European Commission, Parliament and Council includes references to the possible future role of renewable fuels in the transport sector. ACEA is convinced that the national and European climate targets should not be called into question and Europe needs to retain the agility to respond to different needs and to adapt to changing circumstances. ACEA also calls to address emissions from the existing fleet of vehicles on the road. "Mass electrification is a major part of the solution that we are all pushing towards, but it is no silver bullet. The enemy is fossil-based energy, not a particular technology. We note that Europe is the only geographical area set to abandon technological neutrality as a pillar of its regulatory framework" says ACEA President Luca de Meo: https://www.acea.auto/press-release/co2-from-cars-and-vans-eu-auto-makers-press-for-resolution-to-current-impasse/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-post-title_191

REPowerEU: Joint European action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy

The European Commission has proposed an outline of a plan to make Europe independent from Russian fossil fuels well before 2030 in light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This plan also outlines a series of measures to respond to rising energy prices in Europe and to replenish gas stocks for next winter. Europe has been facing increased energy prices for several months, but now uncertainty on supply is exacerbating the problem. REPowerEU will seek to diversify gas supplies, speed up the roll-out of renewable gases and replace gas in heating and power generation. This can reduce EU demand for Russian gas by two thirds before the end of the year. Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said: "We must become independent from Russian oil, coal and gas. We simply cannot rely on a supplier who explicitly threatens us. We need to act now to mitigate the impact of rising energy prices, diversify our gas supply for next winter and accelerate the clean energy transition. The quicker we switch to renewables and hydrogen, combined with more energy efficiency, the quicker we will be truly independent and master our energy system." <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2022%3A108%3AFIN>

Business Europe: Revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive

In a letter to the Chair of the EU Environment Council, the members of Business Europe - advocating for growth and competitiveness at European level - emphasised that the economic and geopolitical outlook of high energy prices, disrupted supply chains, high inflation and aggressive industrial policy in third countries seriously challenge the EU's competitiveness and pose existential difficulties to many companies in Europe. According to Business Europe, the only solution is to flank the Green Deal with an operational industrial strategy: https://www.businesseurope.eu/sites/buseur/files/media/public_letters/iaco/2023-02-28_letter_min_pourmokhtari_ied.pdf