

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 8/2023

Council postpones approval of trilogue compromise agreement on CO2 emission targets

The Council has postponed the vote on the new CO2 emission targets for passenger cars and light commercial vehicles scheduled for this week. The trilogue agreement reached between the Council and Parliament in October 2022 provides for a phase-out of internal combustion vehicles by 2035. At the same time, a non-legislative paragraph was included in the agreement, stating that the Commission should present "a proposal for the registration after 2035 of vehicles that run exclusively on CO2-neutral fuels." However, the FDP has now announced that it will prevent Germany's approval until the Commission has submitted this proposal. Together with Bulgaria, Italy and Poland, there is now a minority blocking the proposal from going forward.

AFIR: Trilogue negotiations between Council and EU Parliament continue

On 28 February, negotiators from the Council of the EU and the European Parliament continued inter-institutional negotiations on the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR). An agreement was reached in the maritime sector. Regarding the level of mandatory minimum coverage of charging stations and hydrogen refueling stations as well as payment options at charging points, the positions of Council and Parliament are still far from being aligned. The Parliament advocates significantly higher minimum requirements for charging infrastructure than the Council. The next (and supposedly last) round of negotiations is scheduled for 27 March.

EU Commission presents Road Safety Package

On 1 March, the European Commission presented the Road Safety Package, including the introduction of a digital driving licence valid throughout the EU, and new provisions to facilitate the enforcement of traffic rules across borders. The new rules are supposed to improve safety for all road users, and shall help the EU achieve its Vision Zero – having no deaths on EU roads by 2050: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_1145

EU energy and transport ministers met in Stockholm for an informal ministerial meeting

On 27 February, EU energy and transport ministers met in Stockholm to discuss the future of the energy market and transport policy. The energy ministers discussed the energy market and energy supply, focusing on preparations for next winter and beyond. The transport ministers discussed future transport policy for a competitive and climate-smart Europe. A joint session on energy and transport policy for the transport sector beyond 2030 was held in the afternoon. The meeting concluded with discussions on future energy policy for industrial competitiveness in all Member States and preparations ahead of the implementation of the EU Fit for 55 climate package: <https://swedish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/events/informal-meeting-of-telecommunications-transport-energy-ministers-27-282/>

Competitiveness Council: Exchange on long-term competitiveness in the Single Market

On 2 March, EU ministers for the Internal market and industry discussed long-term competitiveness, focusing on five pillars: (1) market economy, (2) open trade, (3) better regulation, (4) innovation and (5) a secure energy supply: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/compet/2023/03/02/>

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.