

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 22/2023

Better access to and use of data: MEPs reach agreement with Council

The "Data Act", informally agreed upon between MEPs and Council, aims to stimulate innovation by eliminating barriers hindering access to data. The Data Act establishes rules governing the sharing of data generated through the use of connected products or related services (e.g. the Internet of Things, industrial machinery) and allows users to access the data they generate. It will contribute to the development of new services, particularly in artificial intelligence, where vast amounts of data are required for algorithm training. It also aims to make after-sales services and repairs of connected devices cheaper. In exceptional circumstances or emergencies, such as floods and wildfires, public sector bodies can access and use data held by the private sector, the new law stipulates. During negotiations, MEPs included a clear definition of trade secrets and trade secret holders in the text to prevent unlawful data transfers and data leaks to countries with weaker data protection regulations, or situations where increased access to data is exploited by competitors to reverse-engineer services or devices. MEPs also ensured that businesses can benefit from a single point of contact for all matters falling under the regulation: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230626IPR00843/better-access-to-and-use-of-data-meps-reach-agreement-with-council>

Study: Assessment of the potential of sustainable fuels in transport

This recently published study provides the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) with an assessment of the potential of sustainable fuels to decarbonise the transport sector, and help the sector achieve the 2050 decarbonisation goals. It assesses their potential for use in maritime, aviation and road transport, considering their technology readiness, feedstock availability, sustainability of supply, resource and energy efficiency, and the most appropriate match-making between fuels and applications. The authors find that given the global limitation of resources, the shift to sustainable fuels should be first driven by a significant increase in energy efficiency. Liquid and gaseous sustainable fuels should be primarily dedicated to transport sub-sectors that cannot be easily electrified, i.e. aviation, shipping, and – possibly – part of heavy-duty road transport. Direct electrification from renewable sources is considered as a key option to decarbonise road transport and short-haul shipping: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/733103/IPOL_STU\(2023\)733103\(SUM01\)_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/733103/IPOL_STU(2023)733103(SUM01)_EN.pdf)