

Newsletter

September – October 2019

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The New Commission and the Future of Transport

On 10 September 2019, Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen announced her proposals for the future Commissioners, including her proposal for the positions as transport Commissioner Rovana Plumb from Romania. But on 26 September the Legal Affairs committee (JURI) of the European Parliament rejected two of the proposed candidates, Hungarian conservative László Trócsányi (EPP) as well as Romanian socialist Rovana Plumb due to potential conflicts of interest. President of the European Parliament David Sassoli instantly requested further elaboration on the decision to reject both candidates. On 30 September 2019 the JURI committee concluded a second time that both candidates were not fit for the position as Commissioners “on the grounds of conflicts of interest.” The decision was received critically within the EU-institutions as the rejection was seen as being not transparent enough, as for instance GUE/NGL co-president Manon Aubry said.

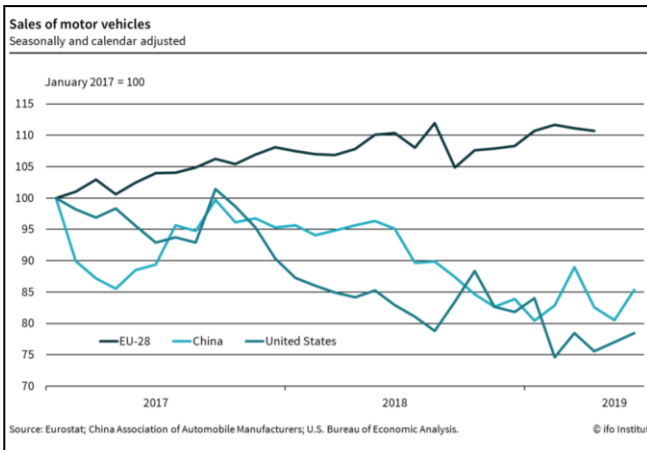
The decision of the JURI committee means that the European Parliament will not be hearing both candidates. Romania and Hungary now have to propose alternative candidate within the coming days. According to the initial schedule, the Parliament was expected to close the hearing on 8 October and then decide on the candidate recommendations until 17 October. Additional hearing could be held on 14 and 15 October. MEPs should then vote on the new Commission by 23 October, so that it could start working by 1 November. If Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen, however, decides to make bigger changes, the process might take longer. Such further delays should be avoided by any means. Considering the urgency of the matters in the transport sector, the EU has already been in a state of paralysis for far too long. The EU must come back to life as soon as possible. The ambitious targets have been set, NOW it is time to execute. There are a number of urgent issues

on the agenda of the transport commission with the mobility package(s) leading the way. Von der Leyen herself writes in her mission letter to her candidate that the new transport commissioner must draft “a comprehensive strategy for sustainable and smart mobility” with contributions to the “zero-pollution ambition”. Decarbonization without the transport sector is not possible, as it is the only economy in the EU with rising emissions. If the climate targets are to be met, quick, diverse and effective measures are needed. At the same time, industrial competitiveness of the EU is under high pressure given the global competition and trade barriers driven by protectionist tendencies. The danger of losing its competitive edge is real and coherent strategies as well as investments are needed to achieve sustainable, future-oriented and inclusive transport economy. There is little room for excessive debates about positions.

German Car Industry

A newly published policy paper of the European Network for Economic and Fiscal Policy Research headed by the ifo-Institute in Munich shows a rather negative image of industrial production in the German car industry which dropped by 9.4 Percent in the third quarter of 2018 which can be attributed to the problems with the implementation of the new Worldwide Harmonized Light-Duty Vehicles Test Procedure (WLTP). The decrease in industrial production has significant economic consequences for Germany (-0.75% of GDP) but also its economic partners (Czech Republic (-0.21%), Hungary (-0.20%) and Slovakia (-0.18%)). Beyond, the car industry is highly interlocked with different domestic sectors such as metal production, rubber and plastic production or electrical equipment which also faced severe economic losses. In the first half of 2019 the decline in German car production continued, mainly due to a weakening of worldwide demand. The paper concludes that the German industry is most likely expected to stay in recession for near future which affects the

domestic economy as well as Germany's trading partners.



Further Links:

- [Policy Paper](#)

European Urban Road Safety Award

In the context of the EUROPEANMOBILITYWEEK from 16-22 September 2019, the European Commission announced to introduce the EU Urban Road Safety Award. The EU Urban Road Safety Award shall reward local authorities for implementing measures, in the spirit of the internationally recognised “Safe System” concept, to improve road safety. The award ties into this year's EUROPEANMOBILITYWEEK theme, reminding us that it is not enough to promote walking and cycling alone – authorities also have to make it safe. The call for applications is open until 16 December 2019 – 24:00 (CET).

For more information about the award, the entrance criteria, and how to apply before the 16 December deadline, see below.

Further Links:

- [EU Urban Road Safety Award](#)

Join our Lunch Debate! 21-11-2019 Brussels

The European Automobile Clubs asbl cordially invites you to its lunch debate “Car Data - Who does OWN, HAVE and USE it?” which will take place on Thursday, 21 November 2019 from 11:30 am to 2 pm at the premises of the Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union in Brussels. The event will be chaired by the former DVZ-EU correspondent and renowned transport expert Werner Balsen. Please save the date! The detailed programme will be available in due course.

The event is open to everyone, there is no participation fee, however registrations will be approved on a first-come first-serve basis.

Further Links:

- [Registration](#)

Calendar

Meeting Dates

Council

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council	02/12/2019
Competitiveness Council	28/11/2019
Council of Justice and Home Affairs	02/12/2019
Council of Environment	19/12/2019

Plenary

09-10/10/2019 ([Agenda](#))

Committees

Environment (ENVI)	06/11/2019 (Agenda, tba)
Internal Market / Consumer (IMCO)	08/10/2019 (Agenda)
Justice & Home Affairs (LIBE)	07/10/2019 (Agenda)
Transport (TRAN)	06/11/2019 (Agenda, tba)

Events (Brussels)

There are currently no relevant events in Brussels.

EAC-Events

20/11/2019	EAC-Fall Meeting 2019 in Brussels
21/11/2019	EAC-Symposium 2019 in Brussels