

EU ISSUES UPDATE

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INFORMATION

Transport Commissioner outlines priorities

The new Transport Commissioner Adina Valean has outlined her priorities in a speech to the European Parliament in which she noted she shares the Parliament's goal for sustainability to be the driving force for transport policy debate. She further reaffirmed that:

- Transport policy actions will be guided by European Green Deal objective to ensure climate neutrality by 2050
- Digital technologies will be used to make mobility smart as well as sustainable
- The Commission will adopt its strategy later this year – it will include measures aimed at significantly reducing CO₂ and pollutant emissions across all modes; it will exploit digitalisation and automation, and enhance connectivity to ensure safety and accessibility
- The four principles that will guide transport's contribution to the European Green Deal will be: making the transport system as whole more sustainable; making sustainable alternative solutions available to EU citizens and businesses; respecting the polluter-pays principle in all transport modes; and fostering connectivity and access to transport for all
- Concerning road transport, the Commission is expected to implement further measures designed to: boost the uptake of clean vehicles and alternative fuels; incentivise consumer choices and low-emission practices; and invest in low- and zero-emissions solutions, including infrastructure
- Digitalisation will facilitate Mobility as a Service and the seamless use of various transport modes for a single journey
- The Commission's strategy will be designed to ensure mobility that is sustainable, modern, accessible, safe, secure and competitive for the decades to come.

Vehicle purchasing trends

European Automobile Manufacturers Association research has shown that the consumer buying trend is slowly but surely moving towards electric cars. Across the EU, there were 3.7% fewer diesel cars registered in the last quarter of 2019 compared to the same period 2018, while demand for alternatively-powered vehicles, including electric, ethanol and liquid natural gas-powered vehicles, increased by 66.2% in the same period. Of this category electric-chargeable vehicles' registration increased 81.3% in the last quarter of the year – making up 3.1% of new cars in 2019.

Charging for trucks

The Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Directive is due to be amended in 2021 and indications suggest that it will require mandatory electric infrastructure for trucks as well as cars. The indication follows environmental group T & E suggesting that half of the current total distance driven by trucks in the EU could be covered by electric trucks if the charging infrastructure is provided for them. It therefore is calling for the European Commission to support the roll-out of private as well as public charging infrastructure – notable given that 80% of truck charging is expected to take place in private depots in the early stages of electrification.

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The FIVA Legislation Commission members are: Lars Genild (Chairman), Giuseppe Dell'Aversano, Wolfgang Eckel, Carla Fiocchi, Laurent Heriou, Johann König, Stanislav Minářík, Bob Owen, Christos Petridis, Kurt Sjoberg and Andrew Turner of EPPA works with the Committee.