

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 23/2020

European Council conclusions on MFF, Next Generation EU, COVID-19 and climate change

On 10 and 11 December 2020, the European Council adopted conclusions on the Multiannual Financial Framework and Next Generation EU, COVID-19, climate change, security and external relations: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/47296/1011-12-20-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>

Commission presents plan for green, smart and affordable mobility

The European Commission presented its “Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy” together with an Action Plan of 82 initiatives that will guide the Commission work for the next four years. This strategy lays the foundation for how the EU transport system can achieve its green and digital transformation and become more resilient to future crises. As outlined in the European Green Deal, the result will be a 90% cut in emissions by 2050, delivered by a smart, competitive, and safe transport system: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/mobilitystrategy_en

Green Deal: Sustainable batteries for a circular and climate neutral economy

The European Commission proposes to modernise EU legislation on batteries, delivering its first initiative among the actions announced in the new Circular Economy Action Plan. Batteries that are more sustainable throughout their life cycle are key for the goals of the European Green Deal and contribute to the zero pollution ambition set in it. They promote competitive sustainability and are necessary for green transport, clean energy and to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The proposal addresses the social, economic and environmental issues related to all types of batteries: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2312

EIB Group provides €150 million to support artificial intelligence companies

The new EIB and EIF Artificial Intelligence Co-Investment Facility will spur fund investments in AI companies. The initiative supports the European ecosystem of excellence and trust in AI and the European Commission’s European Digital Strategy: <https://www.eib.org/de/press/all/2020-334-eib-group-provides-eur150-million-to-support-artificial-intelligence-companies>

Video conference of transport ministers: Road charging (Eurovignette)

In a virtual policy debate, Transport Ministers exchanged their views on a proposal to revise EU road charging rules. The aim of the proposal is to address important issues such as greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impact, congestion and road infrastructure financing: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/tte/2020/12/08/?utm_source=dsms-auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Video+conference+of+transport+ministers