

## NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 2/2021

### **The European economic and financial system: Fostering openness, strength and resilience**

This recently presented new strategy aims to better enable Europe to play a leading role in global economic governance, while protecting the EU from unfair and abusive practices. It goes hand in hand with the EU's commitment to a more resilient and open global economy, well-functioning international financial markets and the rules-based multilateral system: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_108](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_108)

### **New ACEA report: 100-fold increase of zero-emission trucks needed in EU fleet**

A new study by the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) shows that there are currently 6.2 million medium and heavy commercial vehicles on the EU's roads, the average age of which is 13 years. Almost 98% of all these trucks run on diesel according to the 2021 'Vehicles in Use' report. Just some 2,300 – or 0.04% of the total fleet – are zero-emission trucks: <https://www.acea.be/publications/article/report-vehicles-in-use-europe-january-2021>

### **Commission Consultation: Vehicle safety – type approval of cars and vans with emergency lane keeping systems**

Under new EU vehicle safety rules, all new car and van models must be equipped with emergency lane keeping systems (ELKS) from July 2022, and existing models from July 2024. The system helps drivers stay safely within their lane or the road boundary, to avoid accidents. The Commission would like to hear stakeholders' views concerning the draft act until 11 February: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12503-Type-approval-of-vehicles-with-regard-to-their-Emergency-Lane-keeping-system-ELKS->

### **A fair and competitive digital economy**

The EU needs a modern, stable regulatory and tax framework to respond to the developments and challenges of the digital economy. While digitalisation should be promoted and encouraged as it can increase productivity and benefit consumers, digital companies should also contribute their fair share to society. This initiative aims to introduce a digital tax to address the issue of fair taxation of the digital economy: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12836-A-fair-competitive-digital-economy-digital-levy>

## **EU will have stronger powers in trade disputes**

The European Parliament has adopted new rules allowing the EU to use countermeasures in trade disputes when arbitration is blocked. The strengthening of the so-called enforcement regulation allows the EU to protect its trade interests against partners acting illegally. From now on, the EU can introduce countermeasures when it obtains a favourable ruling from a dispute settlement panel of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) or in bilateral and regional agreements, when the other party fails to cooperate on the adjudication of the dispute: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210114IPR95626/eu-will-have-stronger-powers-in-trade-disputes>

*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.*