

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 31/2021

Commission Consultation on Air Quality: Revision of EU Rules

As part of the European Green Deal, the EU is revising standards to avoid the build-up of excessive pollution concentrations and to align them more closely with the recommendations of the World Health Organization. The Consultation also aims to improve overall EU legislation for clean air, building on the lessons learnt from last year's 'fitness check' of EU rules in this field. Interested stakeholders can take part in the consultation until 16 December 2021: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12677-Air-quality-revision-of-EU-rules_en

ACEA Interactive Map: Affordability of electric cars, correlation market uptake and national income

According to this latest ACEA publication, the market uptake of electrically-chargeable cars is directly correlated to a country's national income (GDP per capita), showing that affordability remains a major barrier to consumers in the European Union. Across the European Union, 10.5% of all new cars registered in 2020 were electrically-chargeable vehicles (ECVs). However, 10 EU member states still have an ECV market share lower than 3%: <https://www.acea.auto/figure/interactive-map-affordability-of-electric-cars-correlation-market-uptake-and-national-income-2021-update/>

EIT & EIF join forces to boost innovation in Europe

The European Investment Fund (EIF) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate more closely and boost European innovation for the green and digital transitions. The MoU creates a framework for the EIF and the EIT to collaborate and share information on financing and innovation opportunities, in areas such as equity investments in European SMEs and start-ups, as well as key European sectors such as climate, energy and environmental technologies, strategic digital and deep technologies, education and skills. The institutions collaboration will further support the shift towards a climate neutral Europe, driving innovation, digital and skills transformation: <https://eit.europa.eu/news-events/news/watch-eit-eif-join-forces-boost-innovation-europe>