

**NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 32/2021**

**Competitiveness Council (COMPET): Fit for 55-Package and its impact on the Single Market Economy**

On 29 September, the informal Competitiveness Council (COMPET) took place in Brussels. The debate focused on the link between the European industrial strategy and the new Fit for 55-package. All ministers expressed their support for the targets as set in the Fit for 55-package to reduce carbon emissions significantly by 2030. However, many member states showed concern regarding the impact on energy costs for industry and SMEs. The French minister highlighted the importance of introducing a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) to avoid the risk of relocating carbon emissions. The COMPET policy paper is available here: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-11726-2021-INIT/en/pdf>

**European Commission publishes evaluation of the SME definition**

The European Commission has recently published the results of the evaluation of the SME definition. It confirms that the current SME definition as per Recommendation 2003/361 is effective and does not need to be adjusted. The report states that the definition is still in line with the economic reality and is effectively supporting the SME goals and the general economic policies of the EU Commission: [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=SWD\(2021\)279&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=SWD(2021)279&lang=en)

**Inception impact assessment: Revision of the EU's roadworthiness package**

The European Commission has presented a roadmap on revising the way vehicles are inspected for road safety and to ensure their environmental long-term performance. The evaluation will assess the implementation and effectiveness of the three Directives of the Roadworthiness Package: Directive on the periodic roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers (Directive 2014/45/EC), on the technical roadside inspections of commercial vehicles (Directive 2014/47/EC), and on the registration documents for vehicles (Directive 1999/37/EC as amended by Directive 2014/46/EC): [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13132-Vehicle-safety-revising-the-EU%E2%80%99s-roadworthiness-package\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13132-Vehicle-safety-revising-the-EU%E2%80%99s-roadworthiness-package_en)

## **Stakeholder consultation on the green and digital transition of the energy-intensive industries**

On 28 September, the European Commission presented a [staff working document](#) with different scenarios for a transition pathway toward a resilient, innovative, sustainable and digital energy-intensive industries (EII) ecosystem. Stakeholders are invited to contribute to the scenarios and list key enablers for the twin transition. The document invites the stakeholders to collaborate and propose concrete actions, commitments and investments at sectoral, national and regional levels. It also asks stakeholders for an assessment of scale, cost, benefits and conditions of the required actions to accompany the twin transition. The survey is open until 22 November 2021: [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/stakeholder-consultation-transition-pathway-energy-intensive-industries-ecosystem\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/stakeholder-consultation-transition-pathway-energy-intensive-industries-ecosystem_en)

## **Commission proposal to prolong the State Aid Temporary Framework**

The European Commission has proposed to the member states to prolong until 30 June 2022 the State Aid Temporary Framework. The proposal outlines the phase-out of crisis support and adjusts the scope of the Temporary Framework to include the option for member states to grant for a limited period beyond 30 June 2022 investment support measures towards a sustainable recovery and solvency support measures to leverage private funds and investment in undertakings, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs): [State aid Temporary Framework \(europa.eu\)](#)

*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.*