

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 38/2021

European Parliament (TRAN Committee): Study on Alternative fuel infrastructures for heavy-duty vehicles published

The study requested by the TRAN Committee in the European Parliament presents opportunities and challenges for the implementation of alternative fuels infrastructure in the EU for heavy-duty vehicles (especially trucks). To comply with the Green Deal decarbonisation targets, there is a need to decarbonise truck transport, but at present there is only minimal publicly accessible refuelling and recharging infrastructure for battery electric trucks (BETs) and hydrogen-fuelled trucks. The study is available here: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2021/690901/IPOL_STU\(2021\)690901_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2021/690901/IPOL_STU(2021)690901_EN.pdf)

European Commission postpones publication of Data Act proposal to 2022

On 28 October, the Regulatory Scrutiny Board has issued a negative statement on the Data Act (not publicly available). This implies that the legislative proposal will not be published on 1 December as originally planned. Instead, the European Commission is postponing the publication to the first quarter of next year.

Investments in Digital Transition: European Commission adopts three work programmes for the Digital Europe Programme

On 10 November, the European Commission has adopted the work programmes in the framework of the Digital Europe Programme, meant to strengthen Europe's technological competence and advance the digital transition. The objectives and topic areas will receive €1,98 billion in funding. The main work programme, worth €1.38 billion, will focus on investment in the areas of artificial intelligence (AI), cloud and data spaces and digital skills. The first calls for the Digital Europe Programme will be published by the end of November, and more calls will follow in 2022: [Digital Europe Programme €1.98 billion funding \(europa.eu\)](#)

European Parliament (INTA-Committee): Exchange on Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

On 9 November, MEPs in the INTA-Committee (committee for opinion) held a debate on the proposal for a directive introducing a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). The MEPs agreed that CBAM should set an example and create the incentive for other countries to introduce carbon pricing. According to the Commission proposal, the CBAM would be phased in gradually and would initially apply only to a selected number of goods at high risk of carbon leakage. The INTA Committee members disagreed on the exact timeline for introduction: [Committee on International Trade - Multimedia Centre \(europa.eu\)](#)

European Parliament (IMCO-Committee): Exchange on Batteries Regulation

On 15 November, MEPs in the IMCO-Committee exchanged views on batteries and battery recycling. The MEPs argued in favour of a deposit system and highlighted the need for high standards to protect industry. Also, the rapporteur A. Manders requested close collaboration with the ENVI Committee to ensure sustainability and climate protection. The vote in the IMCO Committee is scheduled for December 2021: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2021/11/11/>