

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 39/2021

Commission publishes communication on a competition policy fit for the digital and green transition

The European Commission has adopted a new communication on a review of the competition policy in line with the twin transition and the path towards economic resilience in the Single Market. The Commission is currently carrying out a review of competition policy tools to guarantee all competition instruments (merger, antitrust and state aid control) remain fit for purpose, and complement the existing toolbox: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_6101

New study published on the current targets for EU fleet-wide CO2 emission

The advocacy group Transport & Environment (T&E) has published a study on the current targets for EU fleet-wide CO2 emission. The study finds that EU “clean car rules” have increased plug-in vehicle sales to almost one-fifth of the market. However T&E states that the targets between 2022 and 2030 are not strict enough to require carmakers to deliver on their EV production plans. The study claims that the new regulation allows for too much flexibility and thus hinders the uptake of electric vehicles: <https://www.transportenvironment.org/discover/electric-vehicle-boom-set-to-stall-as-lost-decade-looms/>

EU institutions agree on Annual Budget 2022

The European Parliament and the Council have reached an informal political agreement on the EU budget for 2022. The agreement is for commitments of €169.5 billion, and payments of €170.6 billion. In parallel to the annual budget for 2022, EU countries will continue to rely on support from the NextGenerationEU recovery instrument and the Recovery and Resilience Facility. The annual budget for 2022 will now be formally adopted by the Council of the European Union and by the European Parliament. The vote in plenary, which will mark the end of the process, is currently scheduled for 24 November 2021: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5942

European Innovation Council with first 20 members launched

The European Commission announced the first 20 leading innovators to participate in the new European Innovation Council. Under the Horizon Europe programme, this Board will lead the implementation of the EIC as Europe’s main innovation programme with a budget of EUR 10 billion. The EIC is meant to support key innovations throughout the lifecycle from early-stage research to the financing and scale up of start-ups and SMEs. The first summit is scheduled for 24-25 November in Brussels. Registration and agenda are available here: https://eic.ec.europa.eu/events/european-innovation-council-summit_en