

## NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 37/2022

### **Council adopts emergency measures to reduce energy prices**

On 8 October, EU member states formally adopted the Council Regulation on emergency measures to address the high energy prices. The adoption of the regulation by written procedure follows a political agreement reached by EU energy ministers in the extraordinary Energy Council on 30 September 2022. The Council regulation sets a voluntary overall reduction target of 10% of gross electricity consumption and a mandatory reduction target of 5% of the electricity consumption in peak hours. The Council agreed that member states may temporarily set a price for the supply of electricity to small and medium-sized enterprises to further support SMEs struggling with high energy prices: <https://czech-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/news/council-formally-adopts-emergency-measures-to-reduce-energy-prices/?etrans=de>

### **EU Parliament: JURI Committee discusses draft opinion on Chips Act**

On 4 October, the rapporteur for the Chips Act file, Tiemo Wölken (S&D) presented a draft opinion. He suggests to support the development of semiconductor technologies through an “open source” approach. This approach shall reduce licence fees and thereby allow SMEs to access the market more easily. Compromise amendments to the report can be provided until 28 October: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/JURI-PA-736697\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/JURI-PA-736697_EN.pdf)

### **Trilogue negotiations on Sustainable Battery Regulation are progressing**

On 11 October, Negotiators from the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission wrapped up their third round of negotiations (trilogue) on the proposed regulation on batteries and battery waste. According to participants, progress has been made on this regulation, which aims to improve the sustainability of batteries throughout their life cycle to protect the environment and health and to create a European battery industry in the interests of strategic autonomy. The next trilogue will take place on 9 December. The ambition of the three institutions remains that the text should be adopted in time to support battery production by 2024.

### **European Commission formally proposes 2023 as year of professional qualifications**

On 12 October, the European Commission adopted its proposal to make 2023 the European Year of Skills, as President Ursula von der Leyen had announced on 13 September. The Commission plans to promote upskilling and reskilling opportunities, for instance by highlighting relevant EU initiatives, including EU funding possibilities, to support their take-up, implementation and delivery on the ground: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_6086](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_6086)

## **European Commission rewards effective initiatives to improve road safety and publishes 2021 figures on road fatalities**

On 17 October, the EU Commission hosts the annual Excellence in Road Safety Awards. These awards recognise the contributions of the European Road Safety Charter's community of members towards the common goal of improved road safety across Europe. Over 100 initiatives were nominated for this prestigious accolade, with 15 projects being shortlisted. The Commission is also publishing the final figures on road fatalities for 2021, following the publication of the preliminary data in March 2022: [https://transport.ec.europa.eu/news/road-safety-european-commission-rewards-effective-initiatives-and-publishes-2021-figures-road-2022-10-17\\_en](https://transport.ec.europa.eu/news/road-safety-european-commission-rewards-effective-initiatives-and-publishes-2021-figures-road-2022-10-17_en)

*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.*