

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 36/2022

Informal Meeting of European Council in Prague

On 7 October, the European Heads of State or Government met for an informal summit of the European Council in Prague. They discussed the war in Ukraine, energy supply as well as economic policy. On 6 October, they had already exchanged views on these topics within the newly founded European Political Community (EPC), which includes European countries that are not part of the EU: <https://czech-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/presidency/prague-summit/informal-meeting-of-heads-of-state-or-government/>

EU Parliament: TRAN Committee adopts report on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR)

On 3 October, the TRAN Committee adopted its report on the AFIR Regulation. The rapporteur Ismail Ertug (S&D) had reached a compromise that was approved by a large majority. The report sets minimum targets for the deployment of alternative fuel infrastructure. Overall, the target goals for the electric charging infrastructure for vehicles shall be tripled. Charging points for electric vehicles shall not be no more than 60 km apart by 2026: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2022-0234_EN.html

European Commission publishes consultation on Critical Raw Materials Act

On 30 September, the EU Commission published a [call for evidence](#) and an [open consultation](#) on the Critical Raw Materials Act. Critical raw materials are key to the green and digital transition as well as to other EU priorities such as Open Strategic Autonomy. To secure a sustainable supply, the European Commission has since 2008 a dedicated strategy in place and put forward an action plan in the 2020 Communication on Critical Raw Materials. Stakeholders are called to provide input in view of the changing global circumstances and related challenges for both the call for evidence and the consultation until 25 November.

Trilogue negotiations on Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) ongoing

On 4 October, the second session of interinstitutional negotiations for the CBAM initiative took place in Strasbourg. The negotiators were discussing which industry sectors and type of emissions should be covered. The next session is scheduled for November. The Europe Jacques Delors think tank published a report on the acceptability of CBAM. The author of the report, Pierre Leturcq, promotes a spirit of cooperation between the EU and its partners in order to gain acceptance for CBAM: https://europejacquesdelors.cdn.prismic.io/europejacquesdelors/ff1d8511-738a-4aec-ad6b-06637191b8d1_20220930_GT11_EN+%281%29.pdf

EU Council reaches political agreement on “REPowerEU” chapters of national recovery plans

On 5 October, EU finance ministers reached a political agreement in principle (‘general approach’) on the legislative proposal to introduce ‘REPowerEU’ chapters in the national recovery plans under the Next Generation EU Recovery Plan. The legislative proposal seeks funding from the current EU budget and the European Recovery Plan to reduce Member States’ dependence on Russian hydrocarbons. The Ecofin Council decided that 75% of the €20 billion to be allocated to Member States in the form of grants would come from the Innovation Fund for climate change and 25% from ‘frontloading’ the auctioning of greenhouse gas emission allowances by 2026: https://www.consilium.europa.eu//media/59346/st12662-re02-en22.pdf?utm_source=dsms-auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=REPowerEU%3a+Council+agrees+its+position

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.