



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Lawmakers want to step up fight against foreign meddling in EU affairs: The Special Committee on Foreign Interference along with EU Foreign Affairs Ministers called on the Commission to adopt a coordinated strategy to enhance the EU's resilience, and counter cyberattacks and foreign disinformation. There have also been continued Russian disinformation campaigns in Kyiv and cyberattacks on Ukrainian governments. French MEP, Glucksmann, addressed the need for an EU response towards similar actions coming from countries such as Russia, China or Turkey. MEPs have also claimed for increased cross-border cooperation for the protection of critical infrastructure, more donor transparency and the creation of an EU sanction instrument for disinformation campaigns.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

European Semester Autumn Package: rebounding stronger from the crisis and making Europe greener and more digital: The European Commission approved the European Semester Autumn Package, which includes the Annual Sustainable Growth Survey, aimed at making the EU economy more resilient in a sustainable way. Another feature are the Opinions on the Draft Budgetary Plans for 2022 of the Euro Area, including policy recommendations considering the escape clause of the Stability and Growth Plan (SGP). A last important point concerns the proposal for a Joint Employment Report on the current situation.

DIGITAL

European Commission puts forth EU's values and principles for the digital age: The European Commission presented the draft for the declaration of digital rights and value, which aims at providing clear standards for working with or in the digital environment. This declaration derives from the 7 principles agreed on in the 2020 Berlin Declaration on value-based digital governance. The main goal of this declaration is to gather all digital rights in one document which will be complementary to other existing European initiatives such as the DMA or the DSA.

ECONOMY

Russian gas supply halt would deal EU economic hit: The possibility of halting the Russian gas supply has been brought up due to the escalation of tensions between the West bloc and Russia in relation to the Ukrainian issue. This measure could also affect the EU in the economic sphere. Even if other possibilities are on the table, the cut on Russian exports would imply other more sensitive decisions namely, the need to delay nuclear plant shut down in Germany or increase the carbon-fuelled production seeing that with no gas supply the storage could be gone by end-march.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Putin, Macron to hold call on Friday amid rising Russia-Ukraine tensions: Macron and Putin will have a call where the French leader hopes to clear up Russia's intentions of a troop deployment at Ukraine's border. Tensions have been escalating in the past weeks and have raised concern in the international sphere. French and German leaders openly declared that Russia might be facing consequences if it waged an invasion, but still are keener on solving the issue in a more diplomatic manner, and so is the US. The West will decide its approach on the issue depending on Putin's further actions..

EU-CHINA

Lithuania-China row: EU escalates trade dispute with Beijing: The EU has taken a stance on the Lithuania-China issue by bringing the matter before the WTO accusing China of "illegal" trade practices towards the European state. Aside from the pursuit of the WTO case, the EU is still open to finding a more friendly solution, which has not arrived, yet. The litigation could go on for years and thus, if Chinese coercion persists other Member States might need to step up in defence of the smaller Lithuania, considering that the EU sees Lithuanian actions as to fit in its One-China Policy. While Europe waits for the WTO response, the Commission has proposed new trade sanctions to counter economic coercion cases like such.