



DIGITAL

Key EU lawmaker aims for April deal on Digital Markets Act: The European Union is set to approve the Digital Markets Act in April as said by Andreas Schwab, a key lawmaker. This new act would be Europe's effort to constrain the power of big tech companies from the US, essential it is made up of a list of rules for these companies and fines of up to 10% of global turnout in case of non-compliance. Negotiations are still going through and some disagreements remain unsolved, such as the role and power of the European Commission as an enforcer. Still, all sides are willing for the approval of this act that could set a global standard in the sector.

HEALTH

MEPs call for a more effective EU strategy to beat cancer: Yesterday, Wednesday 16th February, MEPs adopted in the plenary by 652 votes in favour 15 against and 27 abstentions the report by the Beating Cancer Committee. The new strategy includes a focus on cancer prevention through coordinated efforts at the national and European level, creating a set of rules for cross-border healthcare that promote mobility and access to specialised equipment and a common European approach to the pharmaceutical industry to prevent shortages and make them more accessible. Coming 12 years after the first European cancer strategy, the new one is said to be historic in terms of objectives and resources.

SECURITY

Watch: EU not "missing in action" over Ukraine, Borrell tells MEPs: EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell addressed the situation in Ukraine following the claims that the EU had been missing out. During his speech at the European Parliament, he discredited said claims and highlighted the unity and diplomatic efforts done by the EU regarding this situation. Borrell made other statements implying the key role the EU had played in Russia's recent withdrawal of some troops and that communication from Russia to the EU had been triggered by the work and solidarity of the Atlantic alliance. Both, he and European Council's president, Charles Michel, agreed on the Union's willingness to pursue the diplomatic path while living space for sanctions if needed.

EUROPEAN UNION

Future of Europe: Panel recommendations on EU in the world and migration: The final meeting fourth European Citizen's Panel took place last week in the Netherlands. Along with the meeting, the panel voted on 40 recommendations agreed on the previous sessions on issues such as self-reliance and stability; the EU as an international partner; a strong EU in a peaceful world; migration from a human perspective; and responsibility and solidarity across the EU. Twenty of the participants are now charged with presenting the approved recommendations in the conference plenary the 11-12 March where final proposals will be decided and taken before the Executive Board of the Conference in Spring.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The European Union-African Union Summit: Renewing a Special Partnership: The EU-Africa Summit is being held in Brussels the 17-18 February. The Union wants to take this opportunity to enhance cooperation between continents and establish an ambitious alliance based on prosperity, stability, solidarity and security. Among the EU proposals are the support in Africa's post pandemic recovery policies, the assistance in countering terrorism and fostering security and the promotion of mobility and legal migration. The summit will be divided in seven different roundtables attended by Heads of State and EU and international organisations representatives.

EU, China set April 1 summit amid tension on trade, geopolitics: After repeated delays, the EU and China are holding a virtual conference on April 1st. Charles Michael and Ursula Von der Leyen will be present in the meeting alongside Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. The agenda is now starting to be prepared but the Lithuanian situation and China's coercive measures will be one of the discussion points for sure. Other important topics are the, now frozen, Comprehensive Agreement on Investment and climate change, one of the few areas where both parties are hoping to agree on.