



## GREEN DEAL

**Circular Economy: Commission proposes new consumer rights and a ban on greenwashing:** On Wednesday 30th March, the commission proposed the updating of consumer rules to empower green transition among customers. This new set of rules will ensure that consumers make informed and environmentally friendly choices product-wise. Producers will have to now inform about product durability and repairability, this information should be made available to consumers by the sellers. The commission also wishes to update the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive by expanding the list of product characteristics about which a trader cannot mislead consumers, adding new miss-leading practices and enlarging the prohibited unfair commercial practices list.

**Green Deal: New proposals to make sustainable products the norm and boost Europe's resource independence:** The Commission is presenting today a package of European Green Deal proposals to make sustainable products the norm in the EU by establishing a new set of requirements for products and information about them. It also aims to boost circular business models and empower consumers for the green transition in high environmental impact sectors such as the textile one. Lastly, the Commission's proposal focuses on construction products. It wants to review their regulation and assess the environmental and climate performance of said products as well as include new requirements for more sustainable construction industry.

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## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**G7 leaders agree on no new sanctions, want to close loophole:** The G7 leaders met last week to discuss the Russia-Ukraine war. The main aim of the meeting was to decide and coordinate efforts for the implementation of existing sanctions toward Russia. Sanctions have been in force for some weeks and for G7 leaders it seems evident that loopholes have appeared and are thus more concerned about closing them than about adding new sanctions. They also agreed on engaging other governments around the world to take similar actions. Individually, however, the US has increased its list of sanctioned individuals and the EU's position to not take actions that would in some way harm the Union's economy remains untouched. Even if no new sanctions were agreed on, the German prime minister warned Russia there would be no hesitation from the G7 to increase sanctions if necessary.

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## ECONOMY

**ECB's Lagarde: 'Significant' economic risks rising due to war:** The ongoing situation in Ukraine because of Russia is set to drive inflation higher in the near term and poses significant risks to the eurozone's growth prospects. President of the European Central Bank, Lagarde, warned on Wednesday that the Russia-Ukraine war is also a menace to growth in Europe. She concluded that these are difficult times for Europe and that the ECB will gradually continue its policy efforts to face the imminent challenges as feedback on actions is received.

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## ENERGY

**EU countries bet on floating LNG terminals to raise import capacity:** The war in Ukraine has made some EU Member States bring the focus on liquified gas to solve the gas problems arising from Russian providers. Europe's problem in terms of Russian gas replacement relies on import capacity rather than on providers, thus the debate is now centred on floating terminals rather because onshore LNG terminals take around 5 years to be operational. Germany is expected to have its first floating terminal before the end of the year, and other member states have also started looking toward this, more affordable and faster, option of floating terminals to relieve the pressure coming from dependence on Russian gas.

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## EUROPEAN UNION

**Future of Europe: first debate on Conference proposals wraps up:** The final phase of the CoFoE started last weekend with exchanges on preliminary draft proposals across all themes. Both the plenary and the working groups are working on the final proposals based on the recommendations from citizens' and national panels as well as the ideas gathered on the digital platforms. The next plenary is scheduled for 8-9 April, and working groups are expected to present their consolidated proposals.