



## ECONOMY

**EU starts consultation for Single Market Emergency Instrument:** The European Commission has opened a consultation for stakeholders and citizens on a new tool that aims to secure the internal market functioning during periods of crisis. This mechanism has several goals, namely securing the movements of goods and people between EU countries at all times, assuring enough critical supplies are available in times of crisis and building a more assertive EU trade policy. With this consultation, the EC wants to test different measures and options that could be included in the legislative text that will be drafted by the European Institutions and Member States.

## AGRIFOOD

**Germany calls for a global food security alliance:** As president of the G7, Germany calls for a union of its members and other international donors to form an alliance to tackle the global food crisis. German development minister stated that this alliance should serve as a coordination mechanism for aid donors and countries in need of such aid, helping also in the adaptation of the aid offered to the specific needs of countries receiving it. German minister will present the proposal to the World Bank in its spring meeting and she affirmed there is already a willingness to help but that, as learned from the Covid-19 Pandemic it needs to be coordinated in order to be effective.

## DIGITAL

**Common charger: MEPs agree on a proposal to reduce electronic waste:** After the meeting of the Market and Consumer Protection Committee, MEPs have agreed on the establishment of a common charger for small and medium-sized electronic devices. The agreed port is a USB type-c, which will now have to equip all electronic gadgets no matter the manufacturer. This decision aims to reduce electronic waste as is part of a broader EU initiative to increase product sustainability. MEPs also discussed the need for clearer information on changing aspects to be included in the boxes and extended the proposal to other electronic devices such as laptops that will now need to comply with the common charger requisite.

## SECURITY

**EP Inquiry committee for Pegasus and other spyware launched:** The Inquiry Committee established by the European Parliament following the alleged use of the Pegasus surveillance spyware to determine whether it breached or not EU law and fundamental rights had its first meeting on Tuesday. The elected chair listened during the first meeting to experts on the matter and later stated that the targeting of innocent people such as journalists or lawyers was a huge problem for European democratic values and rule of law. The committee will now proceed to gather all the necessary information to emit a final report after 12 months that will contain useful recommendations on the matter.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**US, UK and France stand up to Russia at G20 as Calviño condemns invasion:** The last G20 meeting showed the internal division of the member states. During the speaking time of the Russian minister, some of the members, namely the US, UK and France decided to walk out of the session showing their stance against Russian attacks on Ukraine. Other members, such as Spain, decided to stay in the room but later addressed the issue and condemned the attacks on their speeches. A last group of members, the biggest beneficiaries of Russian gas also stayed attentive to Putin's economy minister. These attitudes show the lack of unity among the international community members, with the west completely aligned with Ukraine and many countries acting neutral for the moment.

**The plan to rebuild a green Ukraine:** Ukraine's parliament is fully convinced that because of the huge destruction caused by the ongoing war their country is the perfect place to be rebuilt as a clean powerhouse that can allow the EU to achieve its climate-neutral goals. A member of the opposition assured that a "Marshall Plan for Ukraine" is being developed by the government with the support of UK economists, a state which has not been confirmed by either of them. The Ukrainian MP also addressed that the green renovation of Ukraine is higher in cost than a rushed job and that donors should bear in mind that sustainability, energy efficiency and global green transition should be unequivocal conditions for the rebuilding of the country.