## HEALTH

**European Health Union: A European Health Data Space for people and science**: This Tuesday, May 3rd, the European Commission launched the European Health Data Space in the framework of creating a stronger European Health Union. With this initiative, which will be discussed in both the Council and the European Parliament, the EU aims to give citizens control over their health data both in their country and in every other Member State, to create a single market for health services and products and to provide with a safe and trustworthy space for research, innovation, policy-making and regulatory activities. It being created by the EU will ensure compliance with data protection standards within the Union.

## DIGITAL & TECHNOLOGY

**French Presidency eyes general approach on governance framework for digital transformation**: The French presidency will be in charge of starting the negotiations for setting a governance framework that will monitor the Member States' progress toward the 2030 digital objectives of the EU. The Council proposal states that the EU Executive needs to report yearly on the state of the digital decade. It also provides for the Commission to start biannual cooperation talks in case the work or progress done by a country is not sufficient to comply with the digital decade targets presented last year; during the cooperation talks, the European Commission is allowed to provide non-binding guidance. Other remarkable points of the text include the extension of the presentation period of roadmaps to 12 months, the removal of the EC's ability to propose adequate measures to the presented plans and the inclusion of civil society in policy consultations.

**Artificial intelligence: MEPs want the EU to be a global standard-setter**: On Tuesday, the European Parliament adopted the final recommendations for the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age. The adopted text focuses on AI as a great complement to human labour and the need for the EU to be a standard-setter in the issue, preventing other non-democratic actors from doing so. MEPs have foreseen AI's potential in different areas such as health, environment or climate change, and increasing productivity, innovation, growth and job creation. The EU is also aware of the risks of these new technologies and thus calls for collaboration with like-minded partners to develop these standards while safeguarding fundamental rights.

## ENVIRONMENT

**EU body sets out draft sustainability disclosure standards**: The European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) set out its first draft of the sustainability standards, which will arrive at the European Commission by November for adoption. With these new rules, Listed companies will have to implement environmental, social and governance requirements under the corporate sustainability reporting directive. The Environmental Impact Body (CPD) stated that European companies would report on a broader range of issues than most are used to, thanks to these new rules, which will replace the voluntary forms that companies filled out and provided to bodies such as the CPD.

## EUROPEAN UNION

**MEPs begin revising rules on EU elections, calling for pan-European constituency:** The European Parliament has started working on the EU Electoral Act to converge all 27 elections and rules into a single European election. This new system would give each European citizen two votes to cast: one for national constituencies and another for EU-wide constituencies. EU countries will be divided into three groups to fill the lists safeguarding balanced geographical representation. EU-wide lists should be submitted by European electoral entities such as coalitions of national parties. The text approved in Parliament also proposes zipped lists or quotas to tackle the gender balance issue, May 9th as the general voting day and equal access to elections for all citizens.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**EU targets Putin's oil, banks and propaganda in new sanctions plan**: The European Union has presented the draft for the sixth package of sanctions against Putin-led Russia. This new set of sanctions includes the ceasing of Russian crude oil imports within six months and that of refined products by the end of the year. It also targets Russia's biggest bank and multiple media outlets. This plan does require unanimous support from all 27 Member States, and there has already been some potential division. Despite that, Von der Leyen stressed the EU's responsibility toward Ukraine, the need to work in an orderly fashion, and develop a recovery plan for our Ukrainian friends.