



ECONOMY

European Central Bank tries to ease fears of a debt crisis after bond 'panic': Given the fears of a debt crisis similar to the one the EU suffered in 2008, the European Central Bank held a special meeting on Wednesday, June 15th. The EBC confirmed the rate increase by 25 basis points in July to tackle inflation. After incoming questions on how they will prevent the bond market from fragmenting, the EBC promised to deploy money from bought maturing bonds of the Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme yesterday. The US Federal Reserve is also considering the rise of interest rates, but their position is much less challenging, only having to consider one economy. On the contrary, the ECB's policies and decisions affect 19 economies with very different fundamentals.

DIGITAL

Internal Market Committee endorses agreement on Digital Services Act: The Internal Market Committee adopted the provisional agreement on the Digital Services Act on Thursday, June 16th. These new rules and the Digital Markets Act will set new proportional obligations according to the company's size and societal risks. For the moment, small and medium ones will not be bounded, and when they are, they will be subject to certain exemptions. This Act's primary goals are to create safer marketplaces, protect users from illegal content, goods, and services and turn online platforms more transparent and accountable to their users. More prominent companies will conduct audits and risk assessments to ensure compliance. If they don't, fines could reach up to 6% of the company's total turnover.

ENVIRONMENT

MEPs strike down EU plans to label nuclear and gas as green investment: The Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee and the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee rejected on Tuesday, June 14th, the Commission's proposal to label nuclear and gas as sustainable energy sources. Members of the Committees agree that these two energy types are essential for the sustainable transition but that the standards used by the Commission to support their inclusion do not respect the criteria for environmentally sustainable activities. It will be now brought to the European Parliament's Plenary in July, where the Commission's plans may be scrapped if MEPs agree with the opinion of the Committees.

EU signs gas deal with Egypt, Israel to end 'dependency' on Russia: On Wednesday, June 15th, Israel, Egypt, and the EU signed an agreement to increase the two former gas exports to the Union in the European Commission's efforts to cut down on Russian gas. In the Memorandum of Understanding, the three parties agreed to work collectively on the delivery of gas, which will be done in LNG form through Egypt. They are also aware that this increase in exports will translate into future needs for infrastructure investments in Egypt. The other side of the agreement relates to food security in Egypt, for which Von der Leyen has pledged a 100€Million relief, 3€billion on agriculture, nutrition, water, and sanitation programs, and the will to help in the food security crisis management.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Macron, Scholz and Draghi arrive in Kyiv for a historic visit: French President, German Chancellor, and Italian Prime minister are visiting Ukraine and President Zelensky for the first time since the outbreak of the war. As expressed by them, this visit is a demonstration of European unity towards the country. The three leaders are expected to converse with Zelensky about the situation, the possible candidate status of Ukraine in the EU, and other topics. This visit is essential regarding the second topic and given the EU Leaders meeting next week, where the issue will be discussed. Macron also visited Moldova earlier this week, stating his desire to send positive messages but stressing the need to build unanimity among Member states on the candidacy matter.

EUROPEAN UNION

Europeans set defence and energy autonomy as key priorities for 2022: The "Special Eurobarometer" 526 - "Key challenges of our times - The EU in 2022" was released today. The poll concerned current vital topics on the EU's agenda. Citizens were mainly supportive of the EU's actions towards Russia, mainly humanitarian and welcoming actions from the Union and their respective countries. Another topic in which citizens showed great accordance is the joint defence and security policy and the need for joint actions when defending the EU's territory. Participants also supported the REPowerEU program and the climate change priorities.