



ENVIRONMENT

Climate change: Parliament pushes for faster EU action and energy independence: MEPs have adopted their positions on three of the "Fit for 55" milestones, which are also crucial to achieving independence from Russian fossil fuels. The Emission Trading System reform aims to incentivise industries for emission reduction and investment in low-carbon technologies. They also agreed on a broader scope and faster implementation of the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. Third and last, the European Parliament agreed to create the Social Climate Fund to support the most affected by the costs of the energy transition.

TECHNOLOGY

Czech Presidency sets out path for AI Act discussions: The Czech Presidency shared a document to gather the Member States' views on AI-related issues. The final document contains the direction that the presidency will follow and the main priorities on the topic. The first is the definition of AI, for which the upcoming presidency offers different alternatives, from following the Commission's definition to narrowing it down. The three remaining priorities concern the high-risk systems applications list, enforcement and governmental issues and the use of AI for security and military needs.

MIGRATION

Migration and Asylum: The commission welcomes today's progress in the Council on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum: the Member States have agreed on a voluntary solidarity mechanism that is a significant step forward for the European Commission's New Pact on Migration and Asylum. The Member States agreed on the start of negotiations with the European Parliament on two tools: the revised Eurodac database and the screening regulation. The former aims to update the database to manage applications better and avoid irregular movements. The latter establishes a pre-screening process for non-EU persons at the Union's external borders that do not fulfil entry requirements.

EUROPEAN UNION

MEPs could sue EU leaders if they ignore call for treaty reform: Earlier this month, MEPs agreed on a resolution to back the reform of the treaties and passed it to the Council, which must now vote by a simple majority. If the Council fails on its duty to take action on the matter, the European Parliament will be able first to call them out and, in a second stance, take the Council before the Court of Justice. The treaty revision issue came up for the first time since 2009 after the Conference of the Future of Europe. Despite willingness from other sides of the EU and individual member states to re-open the treaties, the outcome of the foreign affairs meeting last week showed no hint of the Council's stance.

European Council, 23-24 June 2022: The European Council is meeting today and tomorrow to discuss the most critical topics. The plan will cover the EU's relations with other partners in Europe, the war in Ukraine, including the food and energy security crises, membership applications of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia and the issuing of economic-country-specific recommendations. They will also review the proposals in the final report from the Conference on the Future of Europe. Ahead of the European Council, EU leaders will meet with those of the Western Balkans to discuss EU integration and significant challenges arising from the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NATO chief wants Sweden, Finland in alliance 'soon' – but can't guarantee it: NATO chief stated his wish to proceed with Sweden and Finland's accession to the Organisation as soon as possible but that he could not guarantee a concrete timeline. In his statement, he clarified that negotiations are still underway to find a solution, given the difficulties of finding approval from Turkey. NATO leaders will hold a special summit next week to discuss critical current decisions, including a long-term strategy document. The summit will focus on the Ukrainian war. The former Norwegian prime minister declared that NATO can still provide weapons and support for as long as it takes and that this issue will be a long-term haul for the Organisation.