



ENVIRONMENT

Fit for 55: Transport MEPs set ambitious targets for greener aviation fuels: The Transport and Tourism Committee adopted a draft negotiating mandate on the ReFuelEU aviation rules. The main aim of this new text is to promote the use of sustainable fuels in aircraft and thus cut out emissions from aviation. Modifications in the text included new additions to sustainable fuel, namely recyclable carbon fuels produced from waste processing. They also considered some biofuels and renewable electricity for the fuel mix for a limited time. The timeline was also modified, and by 2050 85% of the fuels used by aircraft must be sustainable. This will be supported by the creation of a Sustainable Aviation Fund. This will accelerate the decarbonisation and support innovation and research for new fuels and engines, ...

Commission welcomes swift adoption of new gas storage rules: The new gas storage rules have been adopted in record time by the European Parliament and Council. This new set of rules aims to protect Europe from possible supply disruptions by Russia and will do so by requiring the Member States to fill 80% of their gas storage by November this year and 90% in the following ones. This applies to countries with underground storage facilities. Those who do not have them will be required to come to bilateral agreements for gas storage in neighbouring countries. In this sense, gas storage facilities are now considered critical infrastructure and will need to obtain new certifications that assure minimum risks of foreign interference.

EUROPEAN UNION

Czechs take over EU presidency braced for 'bad weather': Czechia is to take over France in the presidency of the Council tomorrow, July 1st. The Czech Presidency will be marked by the ongoing situation in Ukraine and its impact on the EU and its Member States. As stated by the Association for International Affairs, this will be one of their main priorities, together with energy security, defence and economic resilience. In the past months, we have seen the Czechs being supportive of EU-level sanctions against Russia and keen to provide every needed support to the Ukrainian people. There is, however, scepticism towards the upcoming presidency given Czechia's eurosceptic tendency and its ties with Hungary and Poland.

Cohesion Policy steps up support to address the consequences of Russia's aggression in Ukraine with the 'Flexible Assistance to Territories': The Commission has adopted the Flexible Assistance to Territories (FAST-CARE) to help Member States address the consequences of Russia's actions against Ukraine. This package is part of the EU Cohesion Policy and widens the support provided by Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe. This new adoption includes three main changes to improve the Member States' support for the integration of third-country individuals. First, enhanced support for people welcoming displaced people. Secondly, ensuring the best options for investment allocation. And third, practical support to solve the delay in project implementation.

2022 Strategic Foresight Report: twinning the green and digital transitions in the new geopolitical context: The European Commission has adopted its 2022 Strategic Foresight Report. This document identifies critical action areas to address the climate and digital goals better, given the close relationship between both transitions. This report is also a tool for accelerating Europe's pace towards achieving digital and green goals. Among the action, areas are resilience and strategic autonomy, green and digital diplomacy, supply of necessary materials and commodities, economic and social cohesion education and cybersecurity.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NATO leaders brand Russia a 'direct threat' in new strategy blueprint: NATO leaders are meeting this week in Madrid and adopted on Wednesday, June 29, a new strategic blueprint on which they labelled Russia as their most direct and significant threat. The meeting also formally welcomed new members Finland and Sweden after weeks of complex negotiations with Turkey. Regarding the ongoing war in Ukraine, leaders argued that even if NATO has an open door, it is not feasible that a war-ravaged country will join anytime soon, mainly because all members have agreed that they do not want direct conflict with it Russia. However, NATO did make clear that Ukraine can count on them for as long as it takes to provide support.