



## ENVIRONMENT

**Parliament backs EU plan to award 'green' label for gas, nuclear investments:** The European Parliament voted this Wednesday to include nuclear and gas projects in the green investments lists. Before it becomes law, the motion to veto the Commission's proposal will now face a vote in the EU Council of Ministers, where it is not likely to be rejected as it would need a majority of 20 countries to get vetoed. After the voting, Luxembourg and Denmark stated their willingness to bring the decision before the EU Court of Justice. Others showed their disagreement and argued the decision would not help cut down dependency on Russian fossil fuels. Supporters of the decision argued that conditions for these new inclusions are exact and that it is a science-based decision that will help the EU with its decarbonisation process.

## HEALTH

**Protecting mental health in the digital workspace:** This Tuesday, the European Parliament recognised the perks of working from home but also acknowledged the health risks that it might entertain, namely technostress and over-connection. MEPs are well aware that the technological tools used to track and monitor performance and progress in teleworking are risky to workers' mental health and right to privacy. They also addressed the importance of shrinking the digital divide in the EU to prevent digital exclusion impact on mental health. With this adoption, the EP urges the Member States to tackle the issue from a common perspective, namely with a directive on minimum standards and conditions to protect workers in a unified way throughout the Union.

## DIGITAL & TECHNOLOGY

**Commission presents new European Innovation Agenda to spearhead the new innovation wave:** The European Commission has adopted a New European Innovation Agenda to foster deep-tech innovation and startups that will allow the EU to address societal challenges and bring new technologies onto the market. The main objective of the Agenda is to position Europe as a critical player in the innovation scene, which will, in turn, reinforce Europe's leading role in the global green and digital transitions. The actions will be organised under five flagships: Funding Scale-Ups, enabling innovation through experimentation spaces and public procurement, accelerating and strengthening innovation in European Innovation Ecosystems, fostering, attracting and retaining deep tech talents and improving policy-making tools.

**Czech EU presidency proposes compromise text on the Chips Act:** The brand new Czech EU Council presidency has presented a compromise text on the Chips Act that follows the lines of the French presidency's draft. This new proposal presents changes in the scope, facilities' requirements, consortia set up and crisis monitoring and response. The new compromise includes improving the sustainability and climate impact of chips and providing privileges to facilities intended to bring innovative elements that public-private consortia can set up. The Czechs also expanded the role of competency centres to help stakeholders and involved national authorities in the monitoring mechanism.

**Big Tech platforms could face new major EU limits on targeted political ads:** The European Parliament released this Wednesday a draft report that could restrict big tech companies from targeting people with political ads. Political parties will then only be able to target voters based on the data the latter have chosen to share and not on their internet tracking and profiling. The proposal was made by the European Commission late last year and aimed to prevent the misuse of social media in election and referendum times. The Parliament and the Council are now amending the proposal, which should be ready before the 2024 European elections.

## ECONOMY

**MEPs approve Croatia's entry into the eurozone:** The European Parliament has favourably welcomed Croatia's bid to enter the eurozone. MEPs adopted the report that stated Croatia's compliance with the euro adoption criteria this past Tuesday. This means that as of the 1st of January 2023, the euro will start circulating in the country. The parliament also acknowledged the high level of price convergence in Croatia but still expects efforts from the national government to ensure price convergence and avoid artificial price increases.