



ECONOMY

Consumer credits: why updated EU rules are needed | News | European Parliament: MEPs are in favour of the updating of EU Consumer Credit Rules. The current rules adopted in 2008 do not entirely meet the current economic environment of the EU and thus need to be revised and modified. The main reasons behind this need for review are digitalisation and the complex financial situation. The adopted report on the new rules includes greater transparency from creditors to consumers, clear messages about the cost of credits, suppression of social media and health data from the information required to evaluate the suitability and increasing the covered amount up to €150,000. The report will now be taken to the plenary, and after that, negotiations with the council to adopt the final text will start.

ENERGY

EU plan to cut gas use by 15% set to come into effect: This Tuesday, August 9th, the European Union's plan to cut consumption by 15% came into force after its publication. This measure was taken by agreement of the 27 Member States due to the imminent risks faced in the Union because of the Russian military aggression on Ukraine. The main aim is for the Union to reinforce its gas reserves in time for the winter. However, the regulation is, for the time being, a recommendation and thus not compulsory; in fact, some countries have conceded exceptions. But if the gas shortage becomes severe, this reduction would become binding, and the exceptions would be craved

EMPLOYMENT

Social Europe: More transparent and predictable working conditions for workers in EU: On August 1st, governments from the Member States had the last day to transpose the Directive on transparent and predictable working conditions into national law. The new rules increase predictability for workers in the EU and are an essential step toward turning the European Pillar of Social Rights into a reality. This updated Directive entitles workers to a new set of rights, among which: the right to more information about essential aspects of their work, to establish length limit to probation periods, to make up another job, and reasonable notification times for results to be done, to receive cost-free mandatory training, This new conditions will be enjoyed by 2 to 3 million additional workers in the EU.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

UN chief Guterres: Risk of nuclear confrontation is back after decades: The past Monday, August 8th, UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned about the returned risk of nuclear confrontation after decades and called nuclear countries to commit not to use the weapons classified as such. This statement comes after an accusation from Ukraine and Russia on the attack on Europe's largest atomic plant. Leaders worldwide agree that none is safe with attacks on nuclear plants occurring. Therefore, the UN Chief has asked for the International Atomic Energy Agency to be granted access to the plant, whose chief also warned about the real risk of a nuclear disaster.

Iran nuclear deal is 'yes or no', no renegotiations possible, EU stresses: The European Union expects Teherán and Washington to quickly decide on the compromise reached in Vienna to save the Irán nuclear deal. The EU diplomatic Chief, Josep Borrell, stated that "everything that needed to be negotiated has been negotiated and included in the final text. There is no room for more compromises." The main aim of this pact, known as JCPOA, was to assure Iran's nuclear program was civilian. Still, in the past years, with the U.S. withdrawal under Trump's mandate, Teherán backed off from the agreed terms, and other signatory countries expected that negotiation held in Vienna would take the U.S. back into the agreement and, with some concessions, make Irán commit again with the agreed obligations