

#TRENDY THURSDAY

ECONOMY

Crisis-proofing the Single Market: equipping Europe with a robust toolbox to preserve free movement and availability of relevant goods and services:

The European Commission presented this week the new single market emergency instrument. It aims to strengthen structural issues in the single market due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new mechanism will complement other crisis management measures and establish a framework to identify threats and ensure smooth functioning of the single market consisting of a crisis governance architecture, new action for threat addressing, and new last-resort measures.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture Commissioner lends support for new EU-wide fertilisers strategy:

It aims to protect farmers against potential future shortages. Sanctions on Belarus and Russia have put pressure on supplies, leaving the sector looking for alternative suppliers, such as Morocco. So far, the only attempt to relieve the industry came from the Commission's proposal of a solidarity contribution applying to large energy companies, which is supposed to support EU fertiliser producers, among others. Suspending tariffs on inputs used for fertilisers is awaiting approval from member states.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

World leaders vow response against global food insecurity, disinformation:

At the Global Food Security Summit, leaders from Europe, the Americas, and Africa called for urgent action on food security, climate change, and disinformation challenges. According to the final declaration, leaders agreed to step up support for countries in need. President Zelensky accused Moscow of willingly triggering a food crisis. Council President Charles Michael also addressed the issue of Russian misinformation on grain exports from Ukraine. The Summit showed the willingness of world leaders to make more commitments to increase their support to those countries at risk of starvation.

HEALTH

Brussels unveils new guidelines to boost screenings and reduce inequalities in EU:

As stated by the European Commission this Thursday, cancer screening is to be boosted. The new approach aims to include recommendations for more types of cancer to be systematically screened. Moreover, the Commission proposes to extend the target group for breast cancer and ensure that 90% of people in the EU qualifying for screenings are offered those by 2025. Health Commissioner stated that the six cancers to be screened account for 55% of new cancers to be diagnosed yearly. The Commission will support these new recommendations with a €100 million investment.

MEMBER STATES

EU gives Hungary an off-ramp on democratic norms:

The European Commission proposed freezing about €7.5 billion of EU funds for Hungary to bring the country back in line with the bloc's rule-of-law standards. The EU executive also opened the door for a compromise under which Hungary could get the cash if it alleviated EU corruption concerns. There is little appetite in many EU countries for a confrontation with one of the member states, with the war in Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis. And it's ultimately these countries that must approve a funding cut. But if Hungary fails to deliver on its planned reforms, the Council could vote in December to suspend some of its EU budget funds.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

European and African local authorities renew EU partnership for sustainable development:

The Commission recently signed five agreements with associations of local authorities to help them promote development. The EU's support in Africa is critical for education, sanitation, climate change and infrastructure investment, and the new agreements provide €50 million in financial support to local and regional government associations. The EU can give both capacity building and direct access to funding instruments, enabling local African governments to improve conditions on the ground.

