



## AGRICULTURE

**Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027: the Commission approves the first CAP strategic plans:** On 31st August, the European Commission approved the CAP plans for seven countries. These were the first to be approved since the new CAP was agreed upon and marked a crucial step forward in implementing the CAP as of 1st January 2023. The new policy aims to transform the agricultural sector in Europe into a more sustainable, resilient and modern one. This is done through, among other actions, concrete strategic plans designed tailor-made by each member state and that will benefit from €270 billion in funds. The already approved plans represent €120 billion of that budget and include €34 billion in environmental and climate-related eco-schemes. The strategic plans aim to exploit all the possible resources to face food security challenges and strengthen the sector's resilience. Moreover, they also target generational renewal with specific budget allocations for young farmers. The remaining 21 plans are envisaged to be approved as quickly as possible by the Commission.

## ENERGY

**EU promises 'emergency intervention' to rein in energy prices:** The European Union plans an "emergency intervention" given the ever-increasing energy prices. As stated by the Commission's president, Von der Leyen, the European market was designed in very different circumstances. Thus, this intervention is much needed to adapt to the ongoing situation. The Czech presidency of the Council is also aware of this necessity and has convened a meeting of the energy ministers in which the case will be tabled. Member States' opinions are more and more shifting positively towards this emergency intervention, and some of them were already given permission from Brussels to cap the prices of electricity, namely Spain and Portugal, and others have already asked for them.

## DIGITAL

**Czech EU presidency seeks way out of deadlock on European digital identity:** The Czech presidency presented last week a new document on the European Digital Identity, an initiative with high technical complexity. The paper will be debated on the Telecom Working Party of the Council next week, and the Member States will be able to present their suggestions then. One of the most significant changes is the inclusion of European Identification wallets and means of electronic identification. Additionally, unique identification has been changed to record matching identification but may be subject to change under national laws if any Member State wants. Although there are some substantial changes and additions, there are still missing points, and some others are subject to debate among the Member States concerning business registration exceptions, interoperability and implementation periods.

## EUROPEAN UNION

**European Commission poised to launch high-level expert group on standardisation:** As a result of the European Standardisation Strategy presented in February this year, the European Commission is set to establish a "High-Level Forum on European Standardisation." The main objective of this forum will be to anticipate standardisation priorities and work with the rest of the EU's institutions to make sure they are prioritised. The group will be comprised of 60 members, including trade associations, members of the European Economic Area and the EU27. The rest of the members will be chosen from a public call application. Decisions by the forum on recommendations, opinions or reports will be made on consensus or by a simple majority when voting is needed.