

#TRENDY THURSDAY

HEALTH

Health committee will co-lead health data space dossier in the European Parliament:

The European Health Data Space file will finally be co-lead by the ENVI and LIBE Committees in the European Parliament. The former will be more focused on the public health side of the initiative, while the latter will be in charge of consumer protection regarding data processing. The two committees are the best combination to address the entire procedure, as health stakeholders were preoccupied that the absence of the ENVI committee would not allow for a patient-focused approach.

ENERGY

LEAK: EU prepares 'action plan' to digitalise the energy system:

The European Commission stated that all the innovation needed in the energy sector requires a massive effort in terms of digitalization. This effort includes developing a digital electricity grid, a European Energy Data space, a consumer-centred approach, cybersecurity and environmental measures, and greater EU-level coordination.

ENVIRONMENT

European Parliament votes for stricter policy against deforestation:

The European Parliament adopted a position to reduce the impact of European consumption on global deforestation. With this procedure, the EU wants companies to verify that products on the European market are not produced in deforested or degraded lands. MEPs have also expressed their will to enlarge the list initially proposed by the commission to include other products and add obligations for banks.

EMPLOYMENT

European lawmakers expected to approve EU-wide minimum wage for workers:

The European Parliament is set to guarantee an adequate minimum wage as rising inflation continues to strike citizens. It is a crucial step in tackling structural poverty in Europe. Based on the legislation, member states will have to assess whether the level of lowest wages is adequate, considering their purchasing power or socio-economic conditions. They will also be obliged to monitor whether employers apply the new rules.

EUROPEAN UNION

NextGenerationEU: European Commission raises a further €12 billion for Europe's recovery.

The European Commission has issued €12 billion in a dual-tranche transaction under its flagship NextGenerationEU program. Its goal is to support Europe's recovery from the pandemic and the much-needed green and digital transformations. The Commission will continue using the funds raised to support Member States under the Recovery and Resilience Facility and via other EU programs.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

U.S. weighs China sanctions to deter Taiwan action, Taiwan presses EU:

The United States is considering a sanctions package against China to deter it from invading Taiwan, with the European Union coming under diplomatic pressure from Taipei to do the same. This comes in response to fears of a Chinese invasion that have grown as military tensions escalate in the Taiwan Strait. The goal is to take sanctions beyond measures already taken to restrict trade and investment with China in sensitive technologies like computer chips and telecom equipment.

