

#TRENDY THURSDAY

EUROPEAN UNION

EU increases support for border and migration management in the Western Balkans

The Commission aims to upgrade European Border and Coast Guard Agency's (Frontex) status agreements between the EU and Albania, Serbia, and Montenegro, as well as with Bosnia and Herzegovina. The EU will strengthen the capacity of the Western Balkans' partners in their migration management, fight against smuggling and ensure security. The Commission is also adopting a new assistance package worth €39.2 million under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance to strengthen regional border management.

HEALTH

The EU's new health data space is coming and industry wants in

Companies are trying to convince the EU that they can be trusted to be a player in creating and rolling out the Health Data Space. As the Commission's proposal is reworked into the final regulation, the looming question is how much access private companies will be given to valuable data. Industry wants in, but not without promises that its own research and intellectual property will be protected. On the other side, privacy organizations and concerned academics fear that the proposal may open the door to the abuse health data or privacy infringements.

ENVIRONMENT

European Green Deal: Commission proposes rules for cleaner air and water

In line with the European Green Deal, the EU detailed plans to bring air and water pollution down to zero by 2050, proposing more rigid rules and compensation for those affected by poor air quality. The Commission is proposing stronger regulations on ambient air, surface and groundwater pollutants and treatment of urban wastewater, suggesting tightening allowed levels of contaminants and improving implementation to ensure pollution reduction goals are more often reached in practice.

ENERGY

Energy ministers split on EU gas price cap, move towards joint purchasing

Energy Ministers discussed new emergency measures proposed by the Commission last week, including joint gas purchases, solidarity between EU countries in emergency situations and measures to limit gas price spikes. Ministers agreed on working together on joint gas purchasing. However, more work is needed on capping gas prices since Member States are divided on the matter. Although there are still many details left to be decided, including the level of the cap, it is hoped the measure could be adopted in November.

CLIMATE

Commission secures ambitious EU negotiating mandate for the COP27 on Climate and COP15 on Biodiversity

The Environment Council has agreed to push for increased action at the global level to tackle the interconnected climate and biodiversity crises. The EU will aim to secure a successful outcome at both international conferences. During the COP27 climate negotiations in November, the EU will work for further ambition and action, including adopting a Mitigation Work Programme, reducing methane emissions and aligning targets with the 1.5°C goals. As for COP15 in December, protecting 30% of vulnerable land and oceans by 2030 will be one of the main targets for the EU.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EU-Morocco Green Partnership: Commission adopts a key programme to support the agricultural and forestry sectors in Morocco

The Commission adopted a new programme worth €115 million to support the ecological, inclusive and innovative development of Morocco's agricultural and forestry sectors. The programme "Terre Verte" aims to contribute to the national strategies of Morocco's "Green Generation" and "Moroccan Forests", covering the period 2020-2030 by promoting an ecological transition conducive to the creation of decent work opportunities in Morocco in the agricultural and forestry sector.

