

#TRENDY THURSDAY

EUROPEAN UNION

Commission kick-starts work on the European Year of Skills

Following the State of the Union announcement, the Commission has adopted its proposal to make 2023 the European Year of Skills. It proposes to give an impetus to lifelong learning by promoting investment in training and upskilling, matching people's skill sets with the job market, and attracting people from third countries with the skills needed by the EU.

GREEN DEAL

New European Bauhaus under Cohesion Policy: €50 million call for innovative projects in cities

The European Urban Initiative is launching a €50 million call to support urban innovation and cities' capabilities to build a sustainable urban development. This call puts into practice the core values of the New European Bauhaus: aesthetics, sustainability, and inclusion. It looks for projects related to the themes of circularity and carbon neutrality, preserving cultural heritage, affordable housing solutions and regenerating urban spaces.

AGRIFOOD

European Commission announces communication on fertilisers

The Commission is ready to put forward a communication on fertilisers in light of the intense disruption faced by the sector since the war in Ukraine started.

However, the communication will not set up a European strategy for fertilisers and will include no new policy actions. The communication will focus on making the fertiliser industry less externally dependent while simultaneously exploring ways to make EU farmers less dependent on fertilisers.

ECONOMY

Brussels eyes multi-year fiscal plans that include investment, reform

The ongoing reform of EU fiscal rules could give governments more leeway in plans that combine debt cuts with investment and reforms in exchange for greater accountability. The Stability and Growth Pact is meant to safeguard the euro's value by preventing excessive government borrowing. After the pandemic, debt reduction rules need to change, so EU finance ministers will then discuss the Commission proposal to reach an agreement in the first half of 2023.

MEMBER STATES

EU Commission to recommend Bosnia-Herzegovina be granted candidate status

Bosnia and Herzegovina has been a potential candidate for EU membership since 2003 and formally applied for it in 2016. Now the Commission will recommend granting them candidate status, which will help in the implementation of the necessary reforms and the fulfilment of the conditions for an eventual accession. The Commission has been increasingly under pressure to take some steps towards candidate status for Bosnia, especially after it did so with Ukraine and Moldova earlier this year. The executive's recommendation has to be endorsed by the 27 EU countries in a unanimity vote.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Borrell wants a bolder, faster EU – and scolds diplomats to get to it

The High Representative for Foreign Affairs asked his diplomats worldwide to report faster and communicate the EU's narrative more assertively at the EU Ambassadors Annual Conference. Borrell also said Europe's prosperity for decades was decoupled from its security; prosperity was based on China and Russia in terms of market and energy, and security was based on the US. "Today, we have to find new ways for energy from inside the EU because we should not change one dependency for another," he said.

