

#TRENDY THURSDAY

DIGITAL

Digital Services Act: EU's landmark rules for online platforms enter into force

The Digital Service Act (DSA) came into force on November 16th. The new rules, designed for a safer and more accountable online environment, have introduced several obligations for digital platforms. The new regulation introduces measures for transparency, accountability, reducing harms and counter risks online. Smaller platforms and start-ups will benefit from reduced obligations, special exemptions from specific rules, and increased legal clarity and certainty for operating across the whole EU's single market.

ENVIRONMENT

Commission proposes action to fully harness the potential of algae sector in Europe

The Commission has unveiled the "Towards a strong and sustainable EU algae sector", a plan for the growth of the algae sector in the UE. The communication proposes actions to boost the algae industry and make it a robust, sustainable sector capable of meeting Europe's growing demand for the product. The Commission will discuss with the Parliament and the Council to coordinate the actions proposed in the communication with the MS and other relevant stakeholders.

ENERGY

EU aims to speed up renewables permits, removing safeguards

The European Parliament's industry committee adopted on 14 November new legislation to accelerate the deployment of solar, wind, and hydro projects. The measures, of a temporary nature, are part of measures to reduce dependence on Russian gas. The proposal will be put to a parliamentary vote in December to shorten the permitting process for renewable energy projects. Environmental stakeholders report that the legislation undermines environmental standards and urges lawmakers to maintain existing ecological safeguards.

EUROPEAN UNION

Commission welcomes agreement on EU Annual Budget 2023

The Parliament and the Council of the European Union have reached an agreement on the EU budget for 2023. The institutions claim that this budget will help mitigate the consequences of the war in Ukraine and contribute to a greener, more digital, and more resilient Europe. The institutions have endorsed the proposed amendments to the 2022 budget tabled by the Commission earlier this year, along with next year's budget. These measures will be voted on in plenary on 23 November, marking the end of the legislative process.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Errant missile that hit Poland likely came from Ukraine, NATO and Warsaw say

NATO's chief and the Polish government said it is likely that the missile that hit Polish soil was of Ukrainian origin and was a self-defence measure. According to intelligence from both agencies, there is no indication that the attack was intentional. Mateusz Morawiecki, the Polish prime minister, has indicated that the incident does not require Poland to invoke NATO Article 4, as Poland's "political independence or security" is not at risk.

SECURITY & DEFENCE

EU plans to ramp up infrastructure for better military mobility across the bloc

On November 10th, the Commission proposed a better-connected and protected infrastructure plan. The proposal aims to achieve faster and smoother military mobility across Europe. The measure comes in the wake of growing interest in better military mobility, fuelled by the war in Ukraine. The plan also involves improving the exchange of information between SMs and harmonising rules on the movement of troops and military equipment within the EU.

