

#TRENDY THURSDAY

ENERGY

Brussels tables emergency EU permitting rules for renewables

The commission has discussed temporary emergency measures for deploying renewable energies such as solar and wind. Commission members call for accelerating the process of such steps given the energy crisis. The new measures will be active until the revised renewable energy directive is approved and enters into force. Environmental groups have criticized the measures claiming flaws in nature safeguards and democratic checks.

ECONOMY

Brussels to tighten sanctions on member states in budget rules overhaul

EU governments that violate the bloc's fiscal rules face an increased threat of fines and having to explain themselves in parliamentary hearings, according to a proposed overhaul of the regime from the Commission. Under a new blueprint, member states could agree on more realistic debt-reduction paths with the Commission while creating extra space for public investment. At the same time, enforcement would be tightened, with a stricter regime for countries that face "substantial" public debt challenges.

ENVIRONMENT

COP27: EU launches Forest Partnerships with five partner countries

In the context of Cop27, the President of the European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen, has signed the Memorandum of Understanding for Forest Partnerships with five countries; Mongolia, the Republic of Congo, Zambia, Guyana and Uganda. The partnership aims to reverse deforestation and enhance climate and biodiversity protection through a cooperative framework.

CLIMATE

EU strikes deal on climate 'effort sharing' regulation

European negotiators have agreed on regulatory measures around emission cuts in the building, waste, agriculture, and road transport sectors. By 2030, European countries will have to cut emissions by 40% compared to 2005 in the above sectors, which are responsible for 60% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. This provisional political agreement will now have to be formally adopted by the Council and Parliament.

EUROPEAN UNION

Spyware systematically used by some EU governments, MEPs find

MEP Sophia In't Veld, a member of the committee investigating the Pegasus spyware case, has stated that spyware is being used systematically as a tool of control in several EU countries. The committee examining the use of spyware produced by the Israeli firm NSO Group calls for a "profound rethink" of European governance to protect democracy. According to In't Veld, this spyware case is not a national-level scandal but a European-level one.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

America votes: What might a Republican midterm victory mean for Europe?

The United States voted on Tuesday in its Senate and Chamber of Representatives midterm elections. In Europe, there are concerns that a strong showing by the right-wing Republican party -- and in particular, some of the more extreme candidates endorsed by former President Donald Trump -- could send some rather unwelcome shockwaves across the Atlantic. If the Republicans win control of Congress, serious questions will be asked about the impact on US support for Ukraine against Russia's war, European security, and transatlantic trade ties.

