

#TRENDY THURSDAY

DIGITAL

Adoption of the Interoperable Europe Act

The Commission has adopted the Interoperable Europe Act, providing support for creating a network of sovereign and interconnected digital public administrations. The act aims to accelerate the digital transformation of Europe's public sector and introduces a cooperative framework between public administrations across Europe to ensure a better service to citizens and businesses. This initiative will help reduce costs through more effective cooperation, information sharing and seamless delivery of services across borders, sectors and organizational boundaries.

EUROPEAN UNION

MEPs approve new rules to protect essential infrastructure

The European Parliament has approved the new directive to protect the EU's critical infrastructure. The new regulation has widened the scope of important sectors from 2 to 11. The new rules add obligations on cross-border communication and incident reporting and recommend member states establish resilience strategies in critical sectors, including digital infrastructure and food. The co-legislators have also ensured that the new legislation is consistent with the recently-adopted NIS2 directive on cybersecurity.

ECONOMY

EU plans subsidy war chest as industry faces 'existential' threat from US

According to several Politico sources, European institutions are readying a big subsidy push to defend European industry against U.S. subsidies. Tentative solutions aim to establish the "European Sovereignty Fund" to help companies invest in Europe, especially those related to critical high-tech industries. According to Politico and senior EU officials, a subsidy race with the U.S. now looks increasingly likely as diplomatic solutions do not seem to be working.

CLIMATE

EU agrees to COP27 compromise to keep Paris Agreement alive

In the context of the already concluded COP27, the European Commission showed its ambition to pursue measures around climate action. In addition to advocating the preservation of the Paris Agreement targets and promoting the "On loss and damage" fund, the EU signed strategic agreements on raw materials, batteries and renewable hydrogen with several countries. While President Von der Leyen celebrated the various milestones achieved, the overall reading of the conference indicates that only "small steps" have been taken.

ENERGY

Energy crisis: Brussels unveils first-ever EU cap on gas prices but only as 'last resort'

Last Tuesday, November 22nd, the European Commission unveiled a formal proposal to establish the first-ever EU cap on gas prices. The draft text will now be submitted to the MS for discussion and approval. The proposal aims to establish price caps in the gas market when certain price-related conditions are met. The price cap mechanism is envisaged to be one that can be switched on and off depending on the state of the market. However, some stakeholders point out that it will be difficult to activate given the particular trigger conditions.

AGRICULTURE

EU agrees to COP27 compromise to keep Paris Agreement alive and protect those most vulnerable to climate change

On November 21, during their monthly meeting, agriculture ministers discussed the European Commission's plan to strengthen the European fertilizer industry. While the ministers welcomed the general content of the commission's intentions, 16 member states presented a document led by Spain, calling for more short-term measures for the fertilizer crisis. In addition, the ministers were divided over the use of the EU budget or state aid to tackle the fertilizer crisis.

