

#TRENDY THURSDAY

DIGITAL

EU countries endorse agreement on European digital identity

The Council of the EU formalized its position on the European digital identity at the Telecom Council meeting on Tuesday. The European digital identity is intended to create a public version of digital wallets in each member state that can be used to identify, authenticate or verify certain aspects such as age in any other EU country.

These wallets will take the form of apps for smartphones. In the digital sphere, the EU's ambition is to compete with the identification systems currently offered by Big Tech companies like Amazon, Google and Facebook.

EUROPEAN UNION

The EU reaffirms its commitment to the Western Balkan Region in Tirana

In the context of the EU-Western Balkans summit in Tirana, European leaders affirmed their total and unequivocal commitment to the Western Balkan Region. In addition to reviewing the nearly €30 billion Economic and Investment Plan, the EU agreed to fund 40 flagship projects in several key areas with a budget of €5.7 billion. Finally, cooperation on migration management, cybersecurity, education and youth was discussed and addressed.

ENVIRONMENT

Green Deal: EU agrees on law to fight global deforestation and forest degradation

The Parliament and the Council have agreed on EU Regulation on a deforestation-free supply chain. The proposed law aims to ensure that certain vital products do not contribute to deforestation or forest degradation in Europe and globally. The list of commodities to be affected by the regulation, which will be reviewed and updated frequently, includes products such as coffee, soybeans and palm oil. With this measure, the EU aims to stop a significant share of global deforestation and forest degradation. The law will now have to be formally accepted and adopted before it enters into force 18 months after approval.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

EU to invest €13.5 billion in research and innovation for 2023-2024

Yesterday the Commission adopted the Horizon Europe initiative's 2023-2024 work programme. The programme, which focuses on climate, economic and digital measures, will have 13.5 billion to support research and innovators. The funding will focus on pursuing breakthrough solutions for environmental, energy, digital and geopolitical challenges. Information sessions for potential applicants will be held from 7 December this year until 16 February 2023.

ECONOMY

Deal on new rules to protect consumers from taking on too much debt

The Parliament and the Council have agreed to update European consumer credit laws. The proposal to amend the existing directive aims to favour the credit market while ensuring a high level of consumer protection, mainly by legislating on credit card debt, overdrafts and unsustainable debts. The legislation, which will cover credit agreements up to €100,000, will also make changes concerning the right of withdrawal, consumer's creditworthiness, and overcharging against consumers.

TRANSPORT

ETS aviation: Council and Parliament strike provisional deal to reduce flight emissions

This Wednesday, the European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the EU emissions trading system (EU ETS). This revision aims to reduce emissions from the aviation sector to contribute to the targets agreed upon under the Paris Agreement. The new regulation, part of the 'Fit for 55' Package, will make airlines contribute with carbon credits once certain emission levels are reached.

