#TRENDY THURSDAY

by ARPA EU AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS

LABOUR

Labor shortage prompts EU appeal for non-EU workers

The European Commission has created the Labour Migration Platform to address labor shortages within the EU. It aims to encourage migration from third countries and bridge the gap between migration and employment by bringing together experts in both areas. The platform plans to improve recognition of qualifications, encourage circular migration, and match European employers with job seekers from third countries through initiatives such as the EU Talent Pool.

EMPLOYMENT

Traineeships: Commission evaluation analyses impact of European quality framework

The European Commission has evaluated the Quality Framework for Traineeships of 2014, which was created to improve the quality of traineeships throughout the EU. The evaluation found that the framework is considered an important reference point by EU Member States. Most stakeholders consulted including national authorities, employment services, business representatives, and youth find the framework and its 21 principles to be still relevant. The Commission plans to propose an update to the framework by the end of the year, in line with the European Year of Skills 2023.

DIGITAL

The first cooperation and monitoring cycle to reach EU 2030 Digital Decade targets kicks off

The Digital Decade policy program 2030, a monitoring and cooperation mechanism aimed to achieve digital transformation targets across Europe by 2030 is now in force. The program has priorities for key areas: infrastructure and connectivity, digitalization of business, and online public services. The Commission will monitor progress towards the targets through annual progress reports called the State of the Digital Decade, and a new expert group called the Digital Decade Board will be created to reinforce cooperation on digital transformation issues.

HEALTH

Public health: more time to certify medical devices to mitigate risks of shortages

The European Commission has proposed to extend the transition period for medical devices to comply with new rules under the Medical Devices Regulation to mitigate the risk of shortages. The proposal introduces a longer transition period to ensure continued access to medical devices for patients and allow some medical to remain on the market. The proposal needs to be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council through an accelerated co-decision procedure.

TECHNOLOGY

EU leaders fire warning shots at TikTok over privacy

European Commission officials warned TikTok's CEO and to respect EU laws and work on "regaining the trust of European regulators," as the company faces growing criticism over privacy issues. The Commission has raised concerns about the potential unlawful data transfers of European citizens' data to China and children's privacy under the EU's GDPR, and two investigations are ongoing by the Irish data protection regulator. The meeting also covered preparations for the EU's new online content rules (DSA) and new digital competition rulebook (DMA), and discussions around issues such as children protection on the platform, and influencer marketing.

EUROPEAN UNION

EU Parliament to present 14 point anti-corruption reform

European Parliament President Roberta Metsola has proposed a 14-point anti-corruption package to crackdown on influence peddling and bribery scandals. The package includes proposals to prevent former MEPs from immediately taking up lobbying jobs, ban "friendship groups" which are often used to lobby the European Parliament via friendly MEPs, more transparency in MEPs' side incomes and financial interests, and more stringent guidelines for the publication of lobby meetings. Critics say that the package relies too heavily on self-enforcement of rules and that independent oversight is needed.