

#TRENDY THURSDAY

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

Dear Trendy Thursday readers,

From the ARPA team, we sincerely thank you for following our weekly newsletter throughout 2022.

We hope we have provided you with exciting and relevant content about the EU and its policies. We wish you a new year full of health and success.

Remember that we will always be here to help you and take care of any needs you may have in the EU.

Happy New Year!

EUROPEAN UNION

EP President launches procedure for two waivers of immunity

The President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, has started a procedure to waive the immunity of two MEPs following a request from the Belgian judicial authorities. This request will be announced in plenary on January 16th and referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs for a proposal for a decision. The President has also announced plans for reforms, including an overhaul of current rules and improving internal systems. This procedure will be prioritised to be completed by February 13th, 2023.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

"EU countries near deal on bloc-wide response to China's COVID escalation

European countries are discussing coordinated travel measures in response to the Covid surge in China. The measures, proposed by the Commission in a draft opinion, which include measures such as pre-departure testing, are receiving support from most EU countries. During this week the EU crisis response body will meet to discuss the measures. Some countries, including Italy, France, and Spain have already introduced their testing measures for travellers from China.

ECONOMY

EU Commission celebrates 30 years of the Single Market

The European Commission celebrated the 30th anniversary of the EU's Single Market on January 3, highlighting its role as a driver for growth that supports the region's economic and political power at a global level. The Single Market was established in 1993 by removing barriers to the movement of goods, services, labour, and capital and has provided opportunities for millions of businesses and consumers in Europe. The Commission and the European Parliament have planned various activities to mark the anniversary in 2023.

EUROPEAN UNION

Sweden assumes six-month EU Council presidency

Sweden has assumed the six-month rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU, which it will hold until June. On December 14, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson presented the priorities of the Swedish presidency as security, resilience, prosperity, democratic values, and the rule of law. Among other things, the Swedish presidency will prioritize continued economic and military support for Ukraine, fight against cross-border organized crime, tackle the energy crisis, and uphold the principle of the rule of law. Sweden has held the presidency twice before, in 2001 and 2009.

HEALTH

European Health Union: a new EU Health security framework is in motion

European Health Union put in force new measures to strengthen its response to serious cross-border threats to health. These measures include stronger EU rules, a new emergency framework for medical countermeasures, and the establishment of the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) to coordinate the supply of and access to medical countermeasures in the event of a major outbreak. These measures aim to improve the EU's ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to public health emergencies.