

# #TRENDY THURSDAY

## MEDIA

### MEPs toughen rules on political advertising

MEPs have adopted changes to political advertising rules to make EU elections more transparent and resistant to interference. The changes will require that only personal data explicitly provided for online political advertising can be used by advertisers, effectively banning micro-targeting. The Parliament also introduced a variety of other regulations to target more specific areas, including a complete prohibition on using data from minors. MEPs will also establish a new online database that will contain all political advertisements and their associated data, which will increase transparency.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### EU pledges €102.5 million in humanitarian funding for Africa's Lake Chad region

The European Commission has pledged €102.5 million in humanitarian aid to help vulnerable communities in Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon as the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate in the Lake Chad region. The funding, which is part of the total €181.5 million allocated this year for the Lake Chad basin, the Central African Republic and the Sahel, will be distributed among different countries in the region. The aid will provide life-saving assistance to people displaced by conflict, respond to acute food needs, give access to healthcare, support emergency education for displaced children, and strengthen disaster preparedness.

## TECHNOLOGY

### Semiconductors: MEPs adopt legislation to boost EU chips industry

ITRE Committee adopted two draft bills to secure the EU supply of chips by boosting production and innovation. The "Chips Act" aims to bolster technological capacity and innovation in the EU chips ecosystem. The second bill, the Chips Joint Undertaking, increases investments in developing this European ecosystem. The new legislation would support projects aiming to boost the security of supply by attracting investment and building up production capacity. A crisis response mechanism would also be set up, with the Commission assessing the risks to the EU supply of semiconductors and early warning indicators to trigger EU-wide alerts.

## EUROPEAN UNION

### Commission sets out concrete actions for greater involvement of social partners at national and EU level

The Commission has proposed an initiative to strengthen social dialogue and promote it at the national and EU levels. The initiative renews the EU's commitment to social dialogue as a cornerstone of the EU social market economy and competitiveness. It aims to empower social dialogue to adapt to the changing world of work, digital transition and climate-neutral economy. The Commission's proposal for a Council Recommendation recommends that MS ensure the consultation of social partners on developing economic, employment and social policies according to national practices.

## HEALTH

### Swedish presidency on health: From combatting loneliness to digitalisation

The Swedish Presidency of the Council has laid out its health policy agenda for the next six months. The agenda includes measures such as combating loneliness and the implementation of the European Health Data Space. The Swedish presidency also plans to address issues with overstretched healthcare systems and drug shortages. Additionally, the presidency will focus on updating and making future rules on substances of human origin, revising the European Medical Agency's fee system, and addressing shortages of medical devices. They also plan to discuss cancer-related issues, antimicrobial resistance, and mental health.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Food security and ecosystem resilience: Commission boosts action on pollinators

The European Commission proposed a new initiative, "A New Deal for Pollinators". The revised initiative sets out actions to be taken by the EU and MS to reverse the decline of pollinators by 2030, as one in three bees, butterfly and hoverfly species are disappearing in the EU. The initiative includes improving the conservation of habitats and species, restoring habitats in agricultural landscapes, reducing the use of pesticides, and addressing the effects of climate change, invasive species, and other threats on pollinators. It will be a crucial element of the Biodiversity Strategy 2030, the Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal.