

#TRENDY THURSDAY

ECONOMY

EU announces own green industry plan in global subsidy race

The Commission has proposed a draft amendment to the State Aid Temporary Crisis Framework to create a Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework to aid Europe's green transition. The proposed framework aims to increase investment in renewable energy and support the decarbonization of industry and the production of necessary equipment for a net-zero transition. The Commission is consulting MS on amendments, including support for renewable energy, investment in strategic equipment, and increased aid ceilings. MS can now provide feedback, and the Commission intends to adopt the framework in the coming weeks.

MEDIA

European Media Freedom Act: MEPs and experts assess the draft legislation

The Committee on Civil Liberties held a public hearing to discuss the proposed regulations to strengthen media pluralism and freedom in the EU. The hearing was attended by MEPs, experts and stakeholders, who exchanged views on the proposed regulations. The proposed regulation was presented by Marie Frenay, a Commission Vice-President's Cabinet member, and Patrick Penninckx, Head of the Information Society Department at the Council of Europe. The MEPs at the hearing generally welcomed the Commission's proposal and stressed the need for the legislative process to be concluded soon.

TECHNOLOGY

European Parliament readies position on the Data Act

The European Parliament is preparing its position on the Data Act, a new EU legislation that regulates how data is accessed, shared, and transported. The Industry committee has been leading the work on the act and is expected to adopt its report on 9th February. Different parliamentary committees were involved in the process, resulting in a complex picture of shared and exclusive competencies. After consideration from several parliamentary committees, the European Parliament's position will be confirmed in a plenary vote in March.

ECONOMY

State aid: Commission consults Member States on proposal for a Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework

Ursula von der Leyen presented the Green Deal Industrial Plan on Wednesday to support the EU's aim of climate neutrality by 2050. The plan aims to increase the European production capacity of critical technologies such as wind turbines, solar panels, and battery-electric vehicles to decarbonize the economy. The Commission will propose a "Net-Zero Industry Act" by mid-March to set targets, speed up incentivize multi-country projects, and cut red tape. The EU's industrial policy funding is expected primarily from member states and will be temporarily relaxed under a framework created later.

EMPLOYMENT

Council adopts recommendation on adequate minimum income

The Council has adopted a recommendation to promote adequate minimum income in Europe. This recommendation aims to reduce poverty and social exclusion and support high employment levels by ensuring access to minimum income and essential services. Member states are encouraged to provide robust social safety nets, setting minimum income levels transparently and involving relevant stakeholders. e. Adequate minimum income is crucial in exiting poverty and exclusion, with social safety nets providing long-lasting social and economic benefits for the EU.

EUROPEAN UNION

EU to hold talks in Ukraine, push 'progressive integration' as war anniversary nears

On Thursday, a large delegation of top EU officials will visit Kyiv to show their support of Ukraine. The visit is part of an updated EU-Ukraine priority action plan, which includes extending customs-free access to the EU market, increasing access to the roaming-free zone, and joining the single euro payments area. The visit will also involve further military, financial and political aid, doubling the target of training Ukrainian troops, and providing €25 million for demining. The EU has already provided €60 billion in aid to Ukraine, including €11.5 billion in weapons and military equipment.