

# #TRENDY THURSDAY

## CLIMATE

### EU Parliament adopts 'holy trinity' of climate laws

The Parliament has approved three climate laws aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 percent by 2030. The laws include an updated version of the Emission Trading System (ETS) on industry, a carbon border levy (CBAM) directed at imported goods, and a separate carbon trading system (ETS II) for homes and cars. A Social Climate Fund of €87bn was also approved to protect vulnerable households, small businesses, and drivers from the costs associated with the legislation.

## DEFENCE

### European Commission to repurpose €500 million joint arms procurement fund

The Commission is reportedly considering cutting its proposed €500 million short-term joint defense procurement fund for Ukraine to €250 million, prioritizing the modernization of Europe's defense industry. The EDIRPA initiative was proposed last July and seeks to incentivize joint procurement of weapons by EU member states to replenish their stockpiles and continue military support to Ukraine. The EU is also set to propose a European Defence Investment Programme (EDIP) that aims to boost production long-term.

## DIGITAL

### EU launches Cyber Solidarity Act to respond to large-scale attacks

The Commission has proposed a Cyber Solidarity Act to enhance EU-wide cooperation in preparing for and responding to major cyber attacks. The Act includes the creation of a European Cyber Shield made up of national and cross-border Security Operations Centres, a Cyber Emergency Mechanism to test vulnerabilities in critical sectors and a Cybersecurity Reserve of trusted and certified private companies. The Act has faced opposition regarding intelligence sharing and the qualification and responsibilities of private companies.

## CLIMATE

### NGOs sue Commission for 'absurd' inclusion of gas in EU green taxonomy

Environmental groups are taking the European Commission to court over its decision to give gas power plants a "sustainable" label under the EU's green finance taxonomy. The groups argue that gas cannot be considered a sustainable source of energy and that including fossil gas in the taxonomy would worsen the EU's dependency on imported fossil fuels. A hearing is being scheduled for the second half of 2024, with a judgment expected in 2025.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Parliament adopts new law to fight global deforestation

The Parliament has passed a new law requiring companies to ensure that products sold in the EU have not caused deforestation or forest degradation. The law covers products such as cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, charcoal, printed paper products, and wood. Companies will only be allowed to sell these products if the supplier has issued a "due diligence" statement confirming that the product does not come from deforested land or has led to forest degradation, and if the products comply with relevant legislation, including human rights and the rights of indigenous people.

## DEFENCE

### European Commission cracks down on internal transparency over security

The EU executive has removed the names of officials below the middle management level from its public register for security and data protection reasons, aligning with the practice of other EU institutions. This move, which went unnoticed due to a lack of public announcement, means that citizens and stakeholders will have less access to information about the EU's internal departments and civil servants. Stakeholders fear that this reduction in public information may limit access to the policymaking process for those who are less connected or have fewer resources.