#TRENDY THURSDAY

by ARPA
EU AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS

SECURITY & DEFENSE

EU countries give lukewarm reception to cyber defence strategy

EU defense ministers adopted conclusions on cyber defense, prioritizing skills development and voluntary coordination while aiming to avoid duplications in institutional architecture. The document recognizes the primary threat to EU networks as Russia and mentions China. It emphasizes the importance of coordination with EU institutions like ENISA and CERT-EU, calls for non-legally binding voluntary recommendations for increased cybersecurity in the defense community, and supports the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre as a crucial pillar for operational effectiveness.

ENVIRONMENT

Pollution: MEPs support stricter rules to reduce industrial emissions

The Environment Committee adopted its position on EU rules to reduce pollution from large agro-industrial installations, extending the industrial emission directive (IED) to mines, battery manufacturing, and larger-scale livestock farming. The revised IED requires national authorities to reduce pollutant emissions based on the best available techniques. The committee also emphasized transparency, and public participation. The next step is the adoption of the mandate in July 2023 for negotiations with the Council on the final legislation.

ECONOMY

No destroying unsold goods: EU countries agree on green product rules

EU's 27 member states have reached a common position on the revamp of sustainable product rules, including a proposed ban on destroying unsold textiles and footwear. The Ecodesign regulation aims to reduce waste, promote reuse, and inform consumers through a digital product passport. However, disagreements and discontent remain among countries like Italy and Germany, while the Parliament's adoption of its position is awaited for final negotiations with the Council.

ENVIRONMENT

EU agri MEPs reject nature restoration law, losing 'voice' in the process

EU agriculture lawmakers in the AGRI committee rejected the proposed nature restoration law, leaving them voiceless in the final draft. The law aimed to restore land and biodiversity with a €100 billion budget. Environmental NGOs criticized the rejection, stressing the importance of restoring nature for food security. Farmers' organization Copa-Cogeca celebrated the rejection, calling for a realistic and rational approach.

CLIMATE

Energy Taxation Directive: Europe's key climate law stuck in a quagmire

Negotiations to revise the 20-year-old Energy Taxation Directive (ETD) in the EU are progressing slowly due to resistance from member states, as unanimity is required. The ETD, aimed at ensuring a functioning single market and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, faces challenges in removing outdated exemptions and setting minimum tax rates, particularly in sectors like maritime shipping, aviation, fishing, and coal use. Reaching an agreement before the 2024 EU elections seems unlikely, and the process will continue under the upcoming presidencies of Spain and Belgium.

HEALTH

EU to collaborate with US in addressing cancer, global health threats

The EU-US Health Task Force aims to improve cancer prevention, detection, and care, with a focus on pediatric and lung cancer. It also addresses global health threats, such as COVID-19 and antimicrobial resistance. The collaboration brings together the European Beating Cancer Plan and the US Cancer Moonshot, aiming for positive change globally. The task force strengthens cooperation between the European Commission's HERA and the US BARDA for surveillance, technology development, and clinical trials. Previous collaboration efforts include extending the scope of the EU-US Mutual Recognition Agreement for pharmaceutical practices.