

#TRENDY THURSDAY

AGRICULTURE

Spain's agriculture minister sets out EU presidency priorities

Spain's Agriculture Minister, Luis Planas, stated that the Spain's presidency of the Council will prioritize food security, fragilities in the agri-food chain, and promote the strategic autonomy of the EU. Spain also plans to prioritize the implementation of the CAP and the role of rural areas in the EU. Additionally, the adoption of new technologies in food production, such as reducing pesticides, improving irrigation systems, and embracing gene editing techniques, will be emphasized during the presidency.

DIGITAL

Deal on digital traffic data rules

Parliament and Council reach agreement on intelligent transport systems, requiring more traffic data to be digitally available. The rules aim to digitalize the transport sector and promote safer, efficient, and sustainable mobility by enabling wider data sharing among mobility apps. The agreement includes crucial road and traffic information, such as speed limits, road closures, and one-way streets, to be shared in a national database. The deal awaits approval from relevant committees and the Parliament and Council.

CLIMATE

Nature-restoration law survives tight vote in EU Council

EU environment ministers have reached a joint position on a nature-restoration law, setting legally-binding targets by 2030 to halt biodiversity loss and restore ecosystems. Despite concerns raised by some MS, the adoption of the council position emphasizes the importance of this biodiversity law. The law now moves to trilogue negotiations with the Parliament and the Commission, with MEPs expected to finalize their position in July.

ECONOMY

EU invests €6.2 billion in sustainable, safe and efficient transport infrastructure

The EU has allocated €6.2 billion in grants from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) to fund 107 transport infrastructure projects. Over 80% of the funding will support projects aimed at creating a more efficient, environmentally friendly, and technologically advanced network of railways, inland waterways, and maritime routes across Europe. The investments will also enhance the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes to facilitate trade. Key projects include cross-border rail connections such as the Brenner Base tunnel, Rail Baltica, and the Emmerich-Oberhausen section.

ECONOMY

Commission proposes new EU source of income based on company profits

The Commission proposed a new source of income for the EU budget based on corporate profits, alongside adjustments to previous revenue streams. The proposal aims to repay the debt incurred from the NextGenerationEU recovery plan. The new contribution would be temporary and later replaced by a framework for income taxation. The package of own resources, including the proposed changes, is expected to generate around €36 billion annually by 2024. While some EU lawmakers welcomed the proposal, civil society organizations criticized the lack of alternative revenue streams.

DIGITAL

EU Commission sets out voluntary pledges to phase out cookies

The Commission has launched a voluntary initiative to reduce reliance on cookies in online advertising. Stakeholders have been requested to provide input on informing consumers about the business model of websites and the tracking methods used. The initiative aims to explore alternatives to tracking-based advertising, such as contextual advertising and tracking-free personalized ads. Technical solutions for simplifying consumer choice will be discussed by the working groups.