#TRENDY THURSDAY

by
ARPA
EU AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS

ENVIRONMENT

EU pesticide law further behind schedule as committee vote delayed

The Parliament's agriculture committee has postponed the vote on the EU's proposed pesticides regulation to October. . The delay in the agriculture committee's vote could also push back the environment committee's vote and delay the final adoption of the Parliament's position, affecting inter-institutional talks with the Council. Quick conclusion of talks is crucial for the regulation's success before the EU elections in June 2024. Failure to adopt it before the current mandate ends may hinder progress under a new Commission and Parliament.

ENERGY

EU strikes gas, hydrogen deal with Argentina

The Commission has signed a non-binding agreement with Argentina to secure a stable supply of liquefied fossil gas (LNG) for Europe. In return, Argentina will cooperate on green energy efforts and address gas leakage issues. Despite geographical distance, EU investment in Argentina represents half of foreign investment, and the EU is Argentina's third-largest trading partner. The agreement focuses on hydrogen, renewables, energy efficiency, and LNG. The agreement emphasizes reducing methane leakages and integrating recovered methane into the supply chain.

EUROPEAN UNION

EU member states to explore €20 billion war fund option for Ukraine

The EU is considering the establishment of a dedicated 'Ukraine Defence Fund' under the European Peace Facility to support the country's armed forces for the next four years, with a potential cost of up to €20 billion. The fund aims to cover expenses for military equipment purchases and donations, including ammunition, missiles, and armored vehicles. The proposal, expected to be discussed by EU foreign ministers, is part of the bloc's efforts to demonstrate a long-term commitment to Ukraine's security, following previous commitments made during EU leaders' summit.

TECHNOLOGY

Cyber resilience act: member states agree common position on security requirements for digital products

The council has reached a common position for the Cyber Resilience Act, aiming to ensure the safety of products with digital elements before they enter the market. The regulation introduces mandatory cybersecurity requirements products connected to other devices or networks. It aims to avoid overlapping requirements, fill gaps, and clarify links in existing cybersecurity laws. Manufacturers will have increased responsibility for compliance, vulnerability handling processes, and transparency measures to inform consumers about cybersecurity features.

DIGITAL

EU Commission mulls rules on algorithmic management in workplace for next mandate

The Commission is preparing to introduce legislation to regulate the use of algorithms in managing, monitoring, and recruiting workers. An external study will evaluate the impact of AI-powered tools in the workplace, including adoption rates, challenges, legal frameworks, and potential regulatory gaps. Social Affairs Commissioner Nicolas Schmit emphasized the need for a suitable framework to address AI's presence in the workforce. The Platform Workers Directive may serve as a model for future actions in this domain, though political uncertainty may influence the outcome.

ENERGY

European Parliament votes for minimal electricity market reform

The Parliament's industry committee have supported the reform of the EU's electricity market to avoid a repeat of last year's energy crisis caused by high gas prices. The Parliament chose less controversial positions, abolishing the revenue cap for renewables and nuclear electricity producers while focusing on social protection. . The reform aims to put citizens at the center of the electricity market design and addresses social safeguards for consumers. Next steps involve negotiations among EU countries to find a compromise by December.