

#TRENDY THURSDAY

EUROPEAN UNION

Spain election: Feijóo's numbers don't add up

The Popular Party leader got the most votes in the election but lacks the support needed to form a government. Feijóo's leadership bid is unlikely to succeed due to the fact that Vox refuses to support a prime minister backed by the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV). Deputy Prime Minister María Jesús Montero is focused on forming a left-wing coalition to back Sánchez's candidacy.

ENVIRONMENT

EU already late for its 2030 raw materials targets, French experts warn

Experts in the French mining sector say the EU will have a hard time meeting its 2030 targets for extracting critical and strategic raw materials, even if new mines are opened. The EU's ambitions are important due to its push towards electrification, which requires more raw materials for the production of power generation and storage equipment. Given the inherent delays in establishing new mining projects and the current heavy reliance on imports, especially from China, the goal may be unattainable. This situation needs advancing mining projects fast and an increase in extraction targets in the EU.

ENERGY

Energy poverty on the rise in Europe, statistics show

The EU is witnessing a significant increase in energy poverty as 9.3% of the population has not been able to heat their homes sufficiently in 2022 due to the energy crisis sparked by the Russian-Ukraine war. Due to inadequate measures during the crisis, the EESC is calling for a new strategy. The REPowerEU plan, which aimed to increase independence on Russian gas, has succeeded in alleviating energy shortages but has struggled to bring prices down. Further efforts, such as better insulation and higher rates of renovation, are proposed to combat the ongoing crisis while avoiding amplification of inequalities.

ENERGY

Nuclear vs renewables: Dialogue of the deaf continues in Brussels

France has again been excluded from the EU's 'Friends of Renewables' conference on the grounds that only 'like-minded' countries can participate. France initially agreed to participate, but was later excluded due to differences in views on EU electricity market reform. France continues to work on approval of nuclear energy in the EU.

"Friends of Renewables" could benefit from clarifying the true purpose of their conferences.

HEALTH

Tech firms form coalition to combat cybersecurity risks ahead of EU rules

The Network Resilience Coalition, coordinated by the Center for Cybersecurity Policy & Law, works to mitigate cybersecurity risks from end-of-life products that have become vulnerable to attacks because they are no longer being updated. They are developing a strategic document and will continue to hold ongoing meetings, with discussions on the Cyber Resilience Act set to begin in September.

EUROPEAN UNION

Spanish EU presidency must reach deal on migration reform

Several resolutions on EU action in search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean were adopted during the plenary session of the European Parliament. Led by the Renew Europe group, the resolution calls on Frontex to conduct long-term EU search and rescue operations. The move is seen as a legal obligation, an act of solidarity and a commitment to European values. The resolution recognizes the EU's responsibilities in this area, strengthens Frontex, holds Member States accountable and gives the EU Commission greater powers to coordinate maritime operations.