

#TRENDY THURSDAY

EUROPEAN UNION

The twilight days of the European Green Deal

The EU's Green Deal, initiated in 2019, is experiencing resistance due to the pushback on environmental laws and inadequate industrial policy. Recent slowdowns, departures of key figures, and controversy over environmental legislation pose challenges. The next European Commission, taking over in 2024, will need to ensure the implementation of agreed laws and strengthen its green industrial policy.

ENVIRONMENT

Berlin hopeful Brussels will greenlight large-scale hydrogen subsidies

Germany is advancing in talks with the European Commission on subsidies for hydrogen power plants, essential to Germany's decarbonization strategy. The plan includes new hydrogen power plants and aims to reach 10 GW of electrolyser capacity by the year 2030.

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End of 2023 will see debates on EU, national budgets

Debates are expected as the strained EU 2021-2027 budget faces proposed increases of 66 billion euros. Member states are reluctant to raise their contributions, leading to potential conflict between national governments opposing new revenue sources, and the European Parliament advocating for increased EU revenue.

ENERGY

Europe needs a new energy security strategy

The EU needs to expedite its energy transition to lower costs and improve security. The strategy should focus on electrification, zero-carbon energy, combating misinformation, addressing fuel import dependencies, and prioritizing grid infrastructure over pipelines.

ENVIRONMENT

EU proposes legal targets to cut food waste

The European Commission has proposed legally-binding targets to reduce food waste in the EU, responding to concerns over food security and environmental impact. The proposal requires a 10% decrease in waste from processing and manufacturing, and a 30% per capita reduction in service sectors and households. Despite this, there is a significant variation among member states in the implementation and outcome of food waste reduction measures.

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EU's final stretch before June 2024

With the European elections due in June, EU institutions and member states are rushing to finalize key laws before election campaigns begin next spring. Simultaneously, political leaders are preparing their positions for the campaign in the middle of the changing geopolitical landscape due to Russia's occupation of Ukraine.