

# #TRENDY THURSDAY

## AGRIFOOD

### EU Commission wants to strengthen farmers' position in the food chain

The European Commission seeks to strengthen the position of farmers in food chains by proposing measures to balance the power between farmers and supermarkets. This includes restrictions on unfair trading practices and the creation of a dispute settlement mechanism.

These measures are expected to improve the position of farmers and promote fair competition in the EU food market.

## HEALTH & PHARMA

### Compromises on the Pharma Package provide balance, say MEPs ahead of ENVI vote

MEPs express their support for the compromises reached in the EU's pharmaceutical package, arguing that they provide an appropriate balance between public health protection and innovation in the pharmaceutical industry.

These commitments address concerns about the safety and transparency of medicines, paving the way for a crucial vote in the European Parliament's Environment Committee.

## ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

### Europe needs to step up circular economy efforts: EU agency

EU agency warns that Europe needs to step up its circular economy efforts to meet its environmental and climate targets. While some progress has been made, such as reducing landfill waste, more momentum is needed to completely transform production and consumption patterns towards circularity and sustainability. "Decisive action is essential to drastically reduce waste, prioritise reduction of resource use, improve recycling rates and improve the introduction of products that are designed for circularity from the outset," the Copenhagen-based agency said in a statement presenting a new report.

## EUROPEAN UNION

### EU liberals gear up to campaign against von der Leyen

In response to what they perceive as failures in key areas by Ursula von der Leyen's leadership of the European Commission, EU liberals are gearing up to launch a campaign against her. Their grievances include alleged shortcomings in upholding the rule of law and fulfilling climate promises. Although they haven't decided whether to field an alternative candidate, liberal coalition members are determined to apply pressure on Von der Leyen and her administration. This move signals a growing dissatisfaction within the liberal camp regarding the direction and effectiveness of EU leadership, potentially shaping future political dynamics within the bloc.

## DEFENSE

### EU agrees US deal to launch satellites with Elon Musk's SpaceX

The European Union signed a security agreement with the United States to launch satellites using Elon Musk's SpaceX rockets. This agreement gives the EU access to US space launches and strengthens transatlantic cooperation on security and space technology, in a context of increasing global competition in space. "The cancellation of two Soyuz launches from the Guiana Space Centre in April and September 2022 as well as the announced delay of Ariane-6 force the Union to find alternatives to resume urgently the launches of Galileo satellites," the text of the EU's security pact with the U.S. This leaves Space X as the only viable alternative

## ECONOMY

### Lobby groups call for business-friendly turn of the EU Green Deal

Pressure groups led by The EU's main business lobby, BusinessEurope, and the German Chamber for Industry and Commerce (DIHK) are calling on the EU to adopt a more business-friendly approach in its "Green Pact", arguing that current environmental policies could harm economic competitiveness and employment. They advocate measures that incentivise innovation and private investment in sustainable technologies, while minimising regulatory burdens on business. focusing on the fact that it should be better explained to companies what is required from them calling for reducing double reporting.