

#TRENDY THURSDAY

AGRIFOOD

EU Council backs relaxation of CAP green rules, paving way for swift approval

The EU Council has endorsed the relaxation of green rules under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), clearing the path for swift approval of the proposed changes. This decision marks a significant development in agricultural policy, allowing for adjustments in environmental regulations that govern farming practices across the EU. The relaxation of CAP green rules aims to address concerns raised by member states regarding the practicality and feasibility of implementing certain environmental standards within the agricultural sector.

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

EU countries express conditional support for 2040 climate target

The EU's discussion regarding a 90% climate target for 2040 saw advancement with 10 countries supporting, three opposing, and 13 requesting further concessions during a meeting of environment ministers in Brussels. Although countries like France, Finland, Denmark, and Spain expressed support for the ambitious target, Germany and the Netherlands offered provisional support pending internal discussions within their governments.

Meanwhile, countries such as Czechia, Greece, and Poland voiced opposition or called for more analysis, while others refrained from taking a firm stance, citing concerns over specific national circumstances.

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Environment ministers rally to save nature restoration law - but Hungary remains defiant

Environment ministers from various EU countries have united to support the EU's biodiversity restoration law, which aims to protect and restore nature across the continent.

However, Hungary stands out as the lone dissenting voice, maintaining defiance against the proposed legislation. The biodiversity restoration law seeks to address the alarming decline of natural habitats and species within the EU, emphasizing the need for urgent action to safeguard biodiversity.

EUROPEAN UNION

Macron forms 'New Europeans' club to unite fragmented EU liberals

Emmanuel Macron's party is leading the establishment of New Europeans, a new alliance aimed at uniting liberal forces across the EU. It brings together parties from various countries, with aspirations to form a unified European political party. This initiative, viewed as a critical step in countering the rise of the far right, faces challenges from established liberal wings like ALDE but holds potential for accessing EU funding and strengthening liberal influence at the European level. Efforts to build trust among parties are underway as they navigate the complexities of politics to realize the vision of a united liberal front.

TECHNOLOGY

EU Commission issues guidelines for addressing digital risks to elections

The EU Commission has issued guidelines aimed at addressing digital risks to elections, marking a significant step in safeguarding the integrity and security of electoral processes within the European Union. These guidelines are designed to help EU member states identify and mitigate potential threats posed by digital technologies, such as disinformation campaigns, cyberattacks, and manipulation of online platforms, which have become increasingly prevalent in modern electoral contexts. The guidelines provide recommendations for enhancing transparency, accountability, and resilience.

ECONOMY

China's 'de-risking' from West worsens EU industrial decline, experts say

China's efforts to "de-risk" its economy from the West through massive investments in manufacturing and strategic technologies are exacerbating Europe's industrial decline. The EU's push for strategic independence from China follows disruptions caused by the pandemic and tensions over geopolitical issues like the status of Taiwan and China's ties with Russia. China's economic policies respond to global trends, with an increasing securitization of economic development worldwide. This trend is echoed by the European Central Bank's shift towards prioritizing "security" over "efficiency" in economic relations.