

#TRENDY THURSDAY

AGRIFOOD

Brazil, Spain 'ready' to sign EU-Mercosur trade deal despite France's opposition

Brazil and Spain remain committed to signing the EU-Mercosur trade deal, even in the face of France's opposition. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil reaffirms their readiness to move forward with this significant agreement, which has been pending for some time. Despite France's objections, both countries aim to strengthen economic ties and enhance cooperation between the EU and the Mercosur bloc

ENVIRONMENT

Europe must do more to adapt to climate change, says EU environment agency

The EEA has issued its first European Climate Risk Assessment, emphasizing the need for urgent action to combat escalating climate challenges in Europe. The assessment identifies 36 significant climate risks across various sectors. These risks demand immediate attention and action. The report aligns with the recommendations of the Liège Declaration, signed earlier during the Belgian Presidency of the EU Council. European and national policymakers must act swiftly to reduce climate risks through rapid emission cuts and robust adaptation policies. These risks are "shared" by all EU countries, emphasizing the importance of collaboration among European institutions.

TECHNOLOGY

EU Commission breached data protection rules using Microsoft 365, EU watchdog found

EC has been found to have breached data protection rules in its use of Microsoft 365, leading to corrective measures imposed by the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS). The EDPS investigation revealed several key violations, including inadequate safeguards for personal data transferred outside the EU/EEA and insufficient specification of data collection purposes in the contract with Microsoft. As a result, the Commission must suspend data flows related to Microsoft 365 and bring its processing operations into compliance with EU data protection law by December 9, 2024.

HEALTH

'Difficult political decisions' about health priorities ahead, warns EU health commissioner

EU Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides has acknowledged concerns about a planned €1 billion cut in the EU's main health funding programme. The reduction, equivalent to nearly 20% of the €5.3 billion EU4Health programme, will require "difficult political decisions." Kyriakides emphasized the need for a comprehensive assessment and prioritization of initiatives addressing immediate health concerns. She also highlighted the importance of maximizing synergies with other relevant union funds, such as Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe programme.

EUROPEAN UNION

EU elections: French far-right exceeds 30%, widens gap with Macron's Renaissance - polls

The French far-right party, Rassemblement National (RN), has surpassed 30% in the latest polls for the European elections. This places them further ahead of their main rival, President Emmanuel Macron's fading Renaissance party. The RN's increasing popularity signals a significant challenge to the current political landscape in France what could give us the clue over the reality of the European Union elections in July showing a portrait of the general scenario in Europe as well as to highlight what are the main issues that could decide the future of Europe based on the main problems that worry the European society.

INDUSTRY & AGRICULTURE

The European fishing industry wants to join farmers' protests

The European fishing industry's decision to join farmers' protests in France and Spain reflects a growing discontent with what they perceive as the 'Brussels diktat.' This term refers to the influence of European Union policies and regulations on their livelihoods. By standing together, fishermen and farmers aim to amplify their voices and demand fair treatment and policy changes. Their joint demonstrations highlight the interconnectedness of various sectors affected by EU decisions, emphasizing the need for solidarity in advocating for their rights and interests.