

# #TRENDY THURSDAY

## HEALTH

### Commission approves up to €1 billion of State aid by six Member States for the first Important Project of Common European Interest in the health sector

EC has approved the first Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) to support the research, innovation, and industrial deployment of healthcare products and innovative pharmaceutical production processes, called 'IPCEI Med4Cure'. This initiative, aligns with the EUHealth goals by addressing diseases with no effective prevention or treatment and enhancing the EU's preparedness for health threats. The project will receive up to €1 billion in public funding, and €5.9 billion in private investments. It involves 13 companies undertaking 14 innovative projects, focusing on key steps of the pharmaceutical value chain.

## ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

### Commissioner Simson to discuss electricity grids, Russian fossil fuel imports and European Green Deal with EU Energy Ministers

Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson will represent the EC at the Energy Council in Brussels, where discussions will focus on developing future-proof electricity grids essential for integrating renewables and achieving the clean energy transition. The Council will also review progress on the REPowerEU Plan to phase out Russian fossil fuels, EU's energy preparedness for winter, and gas storage refilling strategies. Additionally, the Council will debate the Green Deal's role in making Europe's economy more sustainable and emphasize the urgency for Member States to finalize their National Energy and Climate Plans by the end of June.

## ENVIRONMENT & INDUSTRY

### Net-Zero Industry Act makes the EU the home of clean tech manufacturing and green jobs\*

EC has officially adopted the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA), aiming to bolster the EU's domestic manufacturing capabilities for key clean technologies. This act fosters a unified and predictable business environment, enhancing the competitiveness and resilience of the EU's industrial base while promoting job creation and a skilled workforce. President von der Leyen highlighted that the NZIA provides the regulatory framework needed to scale up clean tech manufacturing swiftly, essential for achieving the EU's net-zero goals by 2050. NZIA sets a benchmark for manufacturing 40% of the EU's annual net-zero technology needs by 2030 and targets 50 million tonnes of CO2 storage capacity.

## EUROPEAN UNION

### Remarks by Executive Vice-President Vestager on the State aid approval of two Important Projects of Common European Interest "Hy2Move" and "Med4Cure"

EC has approved two ambitious IPCEI: "Hy2Move," the fourth IPCEI in the hydrogen value chain, and "Med4Cure," the first in the health sector, bringing the total to ten. The IPCEI Hy2Move focuses on the development and first industrial deployment of breakthrough hydrogen technologies to decarbonize mobility and transport sectors. It builds on previous hydrogen projects and involves seven Member States, covering 13 projects, including large industrial players and SMEs. Participating Member States will provide up to €1.4 billion in public funding, expected to attract an additional €3.3 billion in private funding.

## DIGITAL

### Commission establishes AI Office to strengthen EU leadership in safe and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence

The EC has unveiled the AI Office, designed to foster the development of AI technologies while mitigating associated risks. It will play a crucial role in implementing the AI Act and aims to promote R&D in trustworthy AI, positioning the EU as a leader. The office comprises several specialized units focusing on regulation, AI safety, R&D, societal good, and innovation policy coordination. The AI Office will employ over 140 staff members, to support the implementation of the Act while ensuring a strategic approach to AI on the international stage, becoming a global reference point. Activities will begin on 16 June, with the AI Act expected to enter into force in July 2024.

## CONSUMER PROTECTION

### Speech by President von der Leyen at the 50th anniversary of the Portuguese Association for Consumer Defence, via video message

In a speech celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Portuguese Association for Consumer Defence (DECO), President von der Leyen highlighted the organization's significant contributions since its founding in 1974, a pivotal year when Portugal transitioned to democracy. DECO has been instrumental in advocating for consumer rights over the decades, while consistently adapting to modern economic and social challenges. She also praised DECO's influence beyond Portugal, noting its crucial role in strengthening consumer protection across the European Union.