

#TRENDY THURSDAY

DIGITAL

Commission designates Booking as a gatekeeper and opens a market investigation into X

Commission announced its decisions under the Digital Markets Act, designating Booking as a gatekeeper for its online intermediation service, while opting not to designate X Ads and TikTok Ads. This determination follows a review process initiated on March. Based on Booking's self-assessment, the EC established its core platform service as a vital link between businesses and consumers. Concurrently, a market investigation was launched to assess a rebuttal regarding the online social networking service X. Failure to comply may result in fines or additional remedies.

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Commission presents guidance and recommendations to accelerate renewable energy roll-out ahead of REPowerEU anniversary

The Commission, has taken further steps to bolster the deployment of renewable energy and decrease reliance on Russian fossil fuels. Through a series of updated recommendations, the EC aims to streamline permitting procedures and auctions for renewables, facilitating a swift rollout of domestically sourced clean energy. These efforts not only support the EU's renewable energy framework but also bolster industrial competitiveness, enhance energy system resilience, and align with the European Green Deal objectives. By enhancing transparency and predictability for investors, they ensure smoother progress toward the EU's energy targets.

HEALTH & PHARMA

Better together: Co-creating the future of mental health

EU Mental Health Week took place this week, emphasizing the importance of collective action towards improving mental health for all, with a focus on 'co-creation'. This collaborative approach encourages joint efforts to develop and implement policies and programs fostering positive mental health outcomes. The week's theme underscores the need for inclusive solutions, and recognizing current challenges. Since June 2023, EC has been championing a comprehensive approach, aiming to combat stigma and promote well-being through early interventions, guidance on stigma reduction, and substantial investments. By fostering collaboration and breaking down barriers, the EU aims to address mental health challenges holistically, ensuring better outcomes for all individuals.



ECONOMY

EU economy will grow and inflation decline further, new forecast says

Commission has released a new economic forecast presenting a more optimistic outlook for consumers amidst a projected rebound in economic activity. Following a downturn in 2023, inflation rates are expected to continue decreasing, with gradual growth forecasted for the EU economy in 2024, driven primarily by increased consumer spending fueled by higher wages and improved job prospects. Specifically, the EU economy is anticipated to grow by 1.0% in 2024, with the euro area economy forecasted to achieve a growth rate of 0.8%. Furthermore, GDP growth is anticipated to accelerate in 2025.

HEALTH

Statement by Commissioner Kyriakides to mark European Mental Health Week

"The EU Mental Health Week serves as a poignant moment to reflect on the multifaceted challenges and initiatives surrounding mental health, recognizing its parity with physical health in overall well-being" enhances Kyriakides. The context of recent global events, underscores the need to address mental health concerns, especially among vulnerable demographics. With over half of the EU population at risk of depression in 2022, the economic impact is substantial, amounting to 4% of GDP. To combat stigma and bolster support systems, EU approach advocates for early interventions, destigmatization efforts, and collaboration with national authorities.

ENVIRONMENT & CONSUMERS

Commission decides to register European Citizens' Initiative on taxation of greenhouse gas emissions

The EC has officially registered a EU Citizens' Initiative titled 'Save the Planet by shifting taxation from labour to greenhouse gas emissions', marking a pivotal step in citizen-driven advocacy for climate action. The initiative aims to bolster the Fit for 55 Package and EU carbon pricing system by expediting the phase-out of free allowances and advocating for an uncapped carbon price to meet emission reduction targets. Additionally, it calls for redistributing carbon pricing revenues to support low-income households, reinforcing the EU's Social Climate Fund, and advocating for the establishment of a 'Climate Club' to encourage robust carbon pricing among participating countries.