

#TRENDY THURSDAY

EUROPEAN UNION

Election 2024: Updated seat projection for new European Parliament

EU Elections took place last week between Thursday and Sunday throughout all EU Countries. Nearly 51% of European voters turned out to cast their ballot, an increase of 0,5% comparing to 2019. Generally speaking, the Parliament will shift right thanks to a strong performance by populist right-wing and far-right parties, fuelled by citizens confrontation to the Green Deal, anti-migration sentiment and security concern's. This result will most likely secure Von Der Leyen's place as Commission President for her second term in a row. Nonetheless, some other crucial seats will be disputed, before the final European Parliament takes form to deal with the challenges of the next legislative period.

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Europe's power sector pushes back against Brussels' overregulation

Triggered by proposed new rules on electric transformers, EU power sector representatives have written to the EC to outline their wider issues with their approach to regulation. EC's recent efforts to decarbonize the economy included new rules to improve the efficiency of electricity transformers. However, the proposed changes, which would require bulkier and more copper-intensive transformers, have faced strong industry pushback. Eurelectric and E.DSO criticized EC's process for inadequate planning, communication, and lack of economic assessment, arguing that costs would not be offset by the efficiency gains. This resistance mirrors past discontent with EU regulations, such as those on F-Gases and PFAS, which the industry fears could limit competition and lead to reliance on Chinese imports.

ENVIRONMENT

Commission calls on Czechia to improve competition for organising waste collection and recovery in the packaging sector

EC has informed Czechia that measures appointing EKO-KOM as the only company authorised for the collection and recovery of packaging wastemay be in breach of the EU competition rules. The Czech Packaging Act transposes EU legislation requiring Member States to introduce EPR. Under EPR, everyone placing packaging on the market must assume responsibility throughout its whole lifecycle, including during the end-of-life phase. EKO-KOM, based in Czechia, offers collection and recovery services for packaging waste. Since the entry into force of the Czech Packaging Act in 2002, EKO-KOM has been the only operator authorised to serve over 20,000 businesses in Czechia.

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EU Elections in Spain: EPP beats the Socialists in the European elections in Spain, but Sanchez holds on

EPP won about a third of the votes while socialist's party obtained slightly more than 30% of the votes, which represents a decrease compared to the last elections. Nevertheless, the Socialists only lost one seat. "Today's results are the best in a European election for 25 years. Since 1999. 25 years ago now", declares Feijóo, leader of the Partido Popular. Whenever Popular's won European elections, they always won the national elections afterwards. Socialist party obtained slightly more than 30% of the votes, a decrease compared to the last elections. On the far right, VOX almost doubled their MEPs, while another party called "Se acabo la fiesta" arised and obtained three seats.

AGRIFOOD

Elected lawmakers set to shape the EU's agrifood policy

Once Elections have taken place, the new horizon for the MEPs that will lead EU agrifood policy becomes clearer, with several challenges that must be addressed. The centre-right EPP leads with 17 lawmakers with a background on farming, meanwhile, the liberal Renew follows with 11, and S&D with 10. The new legislative term will officially start on July 16 then, MEPs will decide committees and subcommittees. At the first AGRI committee meeting, MEPs will elect their respective chairs and vice-chairs. Spain elected four centre-right MEPs with previous AGRI experience: Juan Ignacio Zoido, Esther Herranz, Gabriel Mato, and Adrian Vazquez. Carmen Crespo, former Andalusian farming minister, is likely to join the agriculture committee.

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France: Macron dissolves assembly, calls snap election amid far-right surge

Macron announced that would dissolve the National Assembly and call snap legislative elections amid the far-right triumph in the European elections with 32.3% of the vote, against 15.2% for Macron's list. The president announced the dissolution of the Assembly while the current parliament was set to continue in office until 2027. The next legislative elections in France will take place on June 30 for the first round and on July 7 for the second. Now Macron already lacks a majority in the French parliament, and though EU vote has no bearing on national politics, he clearly decided that continuing his mandate without a new popular consultation would place too much of a strain on the system.