

#TRENDY THURSDAY

AGRIFOOD

EU Council hosted Agriculture and fisheries meeting Monday

The Belgian presidency of the Council approved conclusions outlining a vision for the future of EU agriculture. These conclusions emphasize the sector's crucial role in ensuring food security and strategic autonomy, while also acknowledging the challenges posed by climate change, geopolitical tensions, profitability, and administrative burdens. Key elements of the vision include maintaining a strong and competitive agricultural sector, fostering innovation and cooperation, simplifying regulations, supporting young and new farmers, and enhancing climate change resilience. Additionally, the Council president provided an overview of the current state of ongoing proposals related to the sector.

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

EU invests close to €3 billion of emissions trading revenues for cleaner energy systems in 10 EU countries via the Modernisation Fund

The EU has allocated €2.967 billion from the Modernisation Fund to 39 energy projects across 10 Member States, the largest disbursement to date, raising total spending to €12.65 billion since January 2021. This funding supports energy system modernization, greenhouse gas emission reductions, and energy efficiency improvements, aiding the EU's 2050 climate neutrality goal. Beneficiaries include Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. Funded projects involve renewable energy generation, energy storage, and network modernization. Proposal submission deadlines are August 13, 2024, for non-priority and September 10, 2024, for priority proposals.

EUROPEAN UNION

Von der Leyen, Costa, Kallas approved for EU top jobs by negotiators

Six EU leaders have proposed Ursula von der Leyen, António Costa, and Kaja Kallas for top EU positions, with the names to be presented for approval at a summit on Thursday. The negotiators include leaders from the European People's Party, socialists, and liberals, such as Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Donald Tusk, Pedro Sánchez, Olaf Scholz, Emmanuel Macron, and Mark Rutte. Italy, excluded from the negotiation, is expected to secure a senior portfolio. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán criticized the agreement, claiming it promotes division among EU members. The proposed candidates will be considered by EU leaders in Brussels for final approval.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Commission sends preliminary findings to Apple and opens additional non-compliance investigation against Apple under the Digital Markets Act

The European Commission has preliminarily determined that Apple's App Store rules breach the Digital Markets Act (DMA) by restricting developers from directing consumers to alternative channels for offers and content. Additionally, the Commission has initiated a new investigation into Apple's new contractual requirements for third-party developers, including the "Core Technology Fee," to assess compliance with the DMA. If confirmed, these actions may lead to significant penalties and mandated changes for Apple to ensure fair competition and consumer choice in the app marketplace.

ENVI

New finance hub to support ambitions of pioneering cities in climate mitigation and adaptation

The European Commission is establishing a Climate City Capital Hub to support cities involved in the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities. This hub will provide financial advice, help structure financial needs, and connect cities with a range of capital providers, including public and private investors. It will focus on engaging private capital and support both mitigation and adaptation projects for cities with the EU Cities Mission Label. Managed by the NetZeroCities platform.

EUROPEAN UNION

Energy Charter Treaty: EU notifies its withdrawal

The European Union has officially withdrawn from the Energy Charter Treaty, with the President of the Council, representing the Belgian presidency, formally notifying the treaty's depositary. The withdrawal will take effect one year after this notification. The Council's decisions on May 30, 2024, authorized the EU and Euratom to leave the treaty, while member states remaining in the treaty can support its modernization efforts at the next Energy Charter Conference. These decisions are part of the Belgian roadmap for the Energy Charter Treaty, aimed at managing the EU's exit and potential reforms within the treaty framework.