

# #TRENDY THURSDAY

## MIGRATION

### Commission confirms Ireland's participation in the Pact on Migration and Asylum

Ireland has opted into seven legal acts under the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, reflecting its commitment to shared European values and improved migration management. The European Commission, welcoming this decision, has adopted measures confirming Ireland's participation in directives and regulations such as the Reception Conditions Directive and Asylum Procedure Regulation. Financially supported by the Commission with €66.9 million for 2021-2027, Ireland will also receive additional operational, technical, and financial assistance. Implementation of these acts will commence following their publication in the Official Journal, aligning with the broader EU plan to operationalize the Pact by mid-2026.

## EU LAW

### Commission takes action to ensure complete and timely transposition of EU directives

The European Commission has initiated infringement procedures against 26 Member States for failing to fully transpose two EU directives related to climate and defence into national law by their respective deadlines. These directives include the revised EU Emissions Trading System Directive (ETS2) and the directive updating the list of defence-related products. The Member States now have two months to respond to the letters of formal notice and complete their transposition, or the Commission may issue a reasoned opinion.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### Venezuela: Statement by High Representative Josep Borrell on the presidential election

The European Union has closely monitored the presidential election process in Venezuela and commends the peaceful and large-scale participation of voters. However, the EU highlights significant concerns, noting the opposition's participation despite unfair conditions and reporting numerous electoral irregularities. The results are not yet verified, and the EU urges the Venezuelan Electoral Council to ensure transparency and address any post-election grievances. The EU criticizes the lack of implementation of key recommendations from the 2021 EU Electoral Observation Mission and expresses concern over arbitrary detentions and intimidation of opposition members. The EU supports efforts for dialogue to restore Venezuela's democratic legitimacy.



## ENERGY

### Commission approves €1.2 billion Spanish State aid to support investments in renewable hydrogen

The European Commission approved a €1.2 billion Spanish scheme to support renewable hydrogen production investments, facilitating the transition to a net-zero economy. Funded through the Recovery and Resilience Facility, it aims to develop hydrogen clusters with at least 100 MW capacity, covering production, storage, and renewable electricity generation. Grants will be awarded via a competitive bidding process, with aid granted by 31 December 2025. The scheme aligns with the State aid Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework (TCTF) and EU green transition goals. The Commission deemed it necessary, appropriate, and proportionate for accelerating the green transition and supporting the REPowerEU Plan and Green Deal Industrial Plan.

## AGRIFOOD

### Challenges remain for new Commission in defining future EU agrifood policies

Balancing farmers' needs, consumer demands, and sustainability will shape agrifood policies during the new European Commission mandate. Since late 2023, European farmers have protested against low food prices, environmental regulations, and trade issues. The EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has pushed for greener policies, causing concerns about bureaucracy. A Euractiv event on June 4, 2024, emphasized the need for sustainable farming, better policy dialogue, and addressing the instrumentalization of farmer protests. Future policies should focus on sustainability, consumer health, and integrating evidence-based practices to support climate-resilient agriculture.

## DIGITAL

### EU Commission opens stakeholder participation in drafting general-purpose AI code of practice

The European Commission has called for stakeholders to help draft a code of practice for general-purpose AI (GPAI), crucial for AI Act compliance. Despite concerns about civil society and academia being excluded, a diverse group of stakeholders will be involved, though companies retain a strong role. An open consultation runs until 10 September, with the first plenary meeting in September. The final draft will be published in nine months, subject to approval by the AI Office and AI Board. The Commission is also hiring a consulting firm to manage the drafting process.