

# #TRENDY THURSDAY

## HEALTH

### EU's Commitment to Combating Antimicrobial Resistance

At a UN General Assembly side event, Commissioner Stella Kyriakides emphasized the EU's commitment to addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through cross-country solidarity. Highlights: the Joint Action on AMR and Healthcare-Associated Infections, the largest EU-funded initiative with over €62 million. The EU's "One Health" approach addresses AMR across human, animal & environmental health, focusing on surveillance, infection control, and research. European Partnership on One Health and the EU's pilot project to improve access to new antibiotics. The EU is extending its support beyond Europe, providing €25 million for Sub-Saharan Africa and over €1.5 billion for global health systems.

## TRADE & COMPETITION

### EU Trade Defence Safeguards 500,000 Jobs in 2023

The EU's trade defence measures protected nearly 500,000 jobs in 2023, up from 365,000 in 2018, according to the 2023 report on EU trade defence activities. With 182 measures in place—156 antidumping, 25 countervailing, and one safeguard—the number of protective actions has surged by almost 40% since 2018, reflecting the EU's strong response to unfair trade practices. Key industries benefiting from these measures include wind energy, solar glass, and optical fibres, critical to the EU's green and digital transitions, alongside vulnerable sectors like ceramics. Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis emphasized the importance of ensuring fair competition to maintain the EU's global competitiveness.

## AGRIFOOD

### EU Organic Awards 2024: Celebrating Innovation in Organic Agriculture

On September 23rd, 2024, during the European Organic Day, the European Commission announced the winners of the third edition of the EU Organic Awards. Covering 7 categories and 8 individual awards, the event recognized innovative and sustainable projects that significantly contribute to organic production and consumption. Agriculture Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski opened the ceremony, which highlighted how this year's winners set high standards by fostering innovative value chains and creating employment opportunities in rural areas. Launched in 2021, European Organic Day celebrates the crucial role of organic farming in building a sustainable food system for the EU.

## HEALTH

### EU Extends Mpx Vaccine Authorization to Adolescents

The European Commission has extended the authorization of the Imvanex vaccine to adolescents aged 12 to 17, following a recommendation by the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Imvanex, the only Mpx vaccine approved in the EU, was initially authorized in 2013 for smallpox and expanded in 2022 to protect adults against Mpx. The EMA prioritized this extension due to the vaccine's importance, particularly in Africa, and the approval process was fast-tracked. Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides emphasized the significance of protecting adolescents and highlighted ongoing cooperation with international partners to control the spread of Mpx, especially in Africa.

## DIGITAL

### EU AI Pact and Innovation Efforts

Over 100 companies, including multinationals and SMEs from various sectors, have signed the EU AI Pact, committing to voluntary pledges that align with the AI Act's principles ahead of its full application. Signatories pledge to establish AI governance strategies, map high-risk AI systems, and promote AI literacy. Many also commit to additional actions like human oversight and transparent labelling of AI-generated content. The European Commission is also boosting AI innovation through initiatives like AI Factories, supporting start-ups in key sectors and providing resources such as data, talent, and computing power. These efforts complement the AI Act, which came into force in August 2024, with its full application to occur within two years.

## AGRIFOOD

### EU Ministers Advocate Delay in Pesticide Tracking Obligations for Farmers

In a bid to reduce bureaucratic burdens on farmers, at least 17 EU agriculture ministers, call for a postponement of new electronic pesticide tracking requirements, to begin in January 2026. The legislation aims to enhance data collection on pesticide use, which is currently based solely on product sales, leading to significant data gaps. Polish Agriculture Minister emphasized the need for more time to inform and train farmers adequately, proposing a new deadline- January 2028. While many countries supported this delay, Denmark opposed it, arguing that the timeline is manageable. EU Agriculture Commissioner expressed concerns that postponing these obligations could undermine member states' compliance with new regulations.