

# #TRENDY THURSDAY

## HEALTH

### Global Commitment to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance

The European Commission welcomed the political declaration made at the UN General Assembly to strengthen global efforts against antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The declaration, endorsed by UN member states, including the EU, emphasizes a "One Health" approach, recognizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. AMR caused 1.2 million deaths in 2021 and poses significant health and economic challenges, costing Europe €11.7 billion annually. The EU has prioritized AMR prevention with measures to reduce antibiotic use in humans, limit antibiotics in livestock, and enhance environmental monitoring to prevent contamination.

## ENERGY

### EU and Uruguay Strengthen Energy Cooperation with Focus on Green Hydrogen

EU Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson visited Montevideo to deepen energy cooperation between the EU and Uruguay, following their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and renewable hydrogen signed last year. Simson co-chaired the fourth EU-Uruguay Energy Dialogue with Uruguay's Minister of Industry, Energy, and Mining, focusing on green hydrogen and energy efficiency. She also participated in the fifth European Investment Forum on Energy, announcing EU support for Uruguay's Green Hydrogen Roadmap. The visit included meetings with national authorities and EU energy businesses in Uruguay.

## AGRIFOOD

### EU Agri-Food Trade Surplus Grows in Early 2024

In the first half of 2024, the EU's agri-food exports increased by 1%, reaching €116.4 billion, contributing to a trade surplus of €33.7 billion—€1.5 billion higher than the same period in 2023. While exports to the U.S. grew significantly, driven by higher olive and olive oil prices, exports to China dropped by 9%, mainly due to reduced sales of pig meat, dairy, and cereal products. EU cereal exports rose by 8%, reflecting a commitment to global food security. Meanwhile, agri-food imports decreased by 1%, with notable increases from Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, while imports from Australia and Brazil fell.

## EUROPEAN UNION

### EU Parliament to Begin Commissioner Hearings in November

Parliamentary leaders have approved a plan to begin hearings of Commissioners-designate on 4 November, with the aim of swearing in the new Commission by 1 December, unless any candidates are rejected. Should rejections occur, the timeline could be extended into 2025, as new candidates would need to be nominated. The decision, taken on 2 October, followed internal debate over whether to start hearings earlier in October, with the November schedule ultimately chosen to ensure thorough preparation. The hearings will include junior commissioners first, followed by executive vice-presidents.

## COMPETITION

### InvestEU Unlocks €218 Billion in Investments, Boosting EU's Green and Competitive Future

At its halfway point, the InvestEU Programme has unlocked €218 billion in additional investments, with 90% of its EU guarantee already allocated. The initiative supports EU policy priorities, such as renewable energy, clean industrial manufacturing, and SMEs. InvestEU unifies 14 financial instruments, enhancing risk-bearing capacity for partners like the European Investment Bank. The interim evaluation highlights InvestEU's success in mobilizing private and public funds, bridging investment gaps, and fostering new markets and technologies. Despite its success, high market demand suggests further budgetary reinforcements may be needed before the program concludes in 2028.

## AGRIFOOD

### EU Extends Timeline for Deforestation Regulation Implementation to Aid Global Preparedness

The European Commission has proposed an additional 12 months for the implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation, responding to concerns from global partners about their readiness. If approved, the law will take effect in December 2025 for large companies and June 2026 for small enterprises. The Commission also released guidance documents to help stakeholders, including enforcement authorities, prepare for the regulation, which aims to ensure that goods sold in the EU no longer contribute to deforestation. This extension is designed to ensure smooth, effective implementation and continued global cooperation.