

#TRENDY THURSDAY

DIGITAL

The Council adopts new cybersecurity Acts

The European Council has adopted a new cybersecurity package to strengthen security services. The package includes the Cyber Solidarity Act and an amendment to the Cybersecurity Act of 2019. The Cyber Solidarity Act aims to enhance security cooperation between EU member states and establish new cybersecurity hubs across the EU. The amendment to the Cybersecurity Act will enable the creation of European Certification Schemes, a step toward implementing managed security services. Both laws will be published in the EU's official journal and come into force 20 days after being signed by the Council and Parliament presidents.

EUROPEAN UNION

The Polish Council presidency expected to be proactive

Thirteen years have passed since Poland chaired the EU Council presidency for the last time, but Donald Tusk assures its presidency "is not going to pass these six months somehow". The former EPP's president has pledged its upcoming Polish Council presidency to be proactive and focused on security. Mr Tusk has stressed the EU should become capable "not only of survival but also of political offensive" regarding the tough international context EU will have to deal with in next six months. Poland will take over the EU Council presidency from incumbent Hungary on January 1st 2025 and retain the role until June 31st, when Denmark will take over.

ENVIRONMENT

EU Anti-Deforestation Law postponed until December 2025

The European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the EU have agreed to delay the EU Anti-Deforestation Law by one year. Despite some parliamentarians having shown disconformity with the law and tried to amend it, the plenary ratified the original proposal of the European Commission and the regulation will be postponed and entered into law on December 30th 2025. When it comes to micro- and small enterprises, they would have until June 30th 2026 to comply with the law. The agreement comes right after some EU members, non- EU members, traders and operators have raised concerns about the impossibility to fully comply with the law if applied at the end of this year.

AGRIFOOD

The European Board on Agriculture and Food officially set up

The European Commission has launched the European Board on Agriculture and Food (EBAF). This consultative body will be chaired by the Commissioner for Food and Agriculture, Christophe Hansen, and is expected to provide him a high-level advice on the report of the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture, which will be an essential step to reach the Vision for Agriculture and Food program expected to be delivered in the first 100 days by Commissioner Hansen. The Board is set up for five years and will be composed of thirty maximum thirty member organisations representing three categories of stakeholders: the farming community, other actors of the food supply chain and civil society.

HEALTH

The EU Council calls for more tobacco restrictions

The EU Health ministers have endorsed European Commission recommendations on tobacco and aerosol restrictions despite European Parliament's resolution against them. These recommendations are framed in the EU Beating Cancer Plan, which aims to reduce tobacco use by 30% by 2025 and cut the share of smokers in the EU population to just 5%. The EU Council's recommendations include more restrictive measures than those proposed by the Commission, including banning smoking in semi-outdoor areas such as rooftops, balconies or bush stops. In addition to these, measures for child protection are also included, such as public playgrounds, amusement parks or swimming pools.

ENERGY

The Commission advances net-zero technologies

The European Commission steps up its efforts to boost net-zero technologies to pursue competitiveness in European industry. The Commission has come up with two proposals to ensure clean energy transition and adjust to the climate neutrality target by 2050. On one side, €3.4 billion investment in electric vehicles battery cell manufacturing; on the other side, €1.2 billion spending destined to support renewable hydrogen projects. The upcoming net-zero technologies will be assessed based on their potential to reduce greenhouse emissions, degree of innovation, project maturity, replicability and cost efficiency.