

# #TRENDY THURSDAY

## ENVIRONMENT

### Water resilience still great challenge

The reports published by the European Commission on the state of water indicate that Europe is making limited progress when it comes to water resilience. Covering the implementation of three key EU directives –the Water Framework, Floods, and Marine Strategy Framework Directives– the reports highlighted several areas where further efforts are needed to meet EU targets for freshwater quality and quantity. Consequently, the Commission has issued recommendations to member states on the efficient use and re-use of water, while also urging them to comply with EU water laws. The information provided in these reports is crucial for shaping the upcoming EU Water Resilience Strategy.

## EUROPEAN UNION

### Commission activates the infringement procedure

A letter of formal notice has been sent to the Member States that have failed to transpose EU directives into their national law. The European Commission has taken action to enforce the transposition of eleven EU directives in areas such as the environment, financial stability, financial services, capital markets union, justice, taxation, and mobility and transport, which have yet to be notified by the 27 Member States. From now on, Member States have two months to reply to the letters of formal notice and complete their transposition. If they fail to do so, the European Commission may decide to issue a reasoned opinion – a formal request to comply with EU law.

## HEALTH

### Report reveals little improvement in Cancer rates

On Monday, ahead of World Cancer Day, the Commission published the biennial Country Cancer Profiles for all EU Member States, as well as Norway and Iceland. The report, aligned with Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, found that while cancer survival rates have improved across the EU, with cancer mortality decreasing by 12 percent, significant inequalities persist between and within Member States, with rates remaining higher in low-income countries and among men. Additionally, the Profiles reveal that colorectal, lung, prostate and breast cancers account for half of all cancer cases registered. Breast cancer alone is responsible for almost one in three new cases among women, while prostate cancer affects nearly one in four new cases in men.



## DEFENCE

### 'The Europe of Defence' is the new scenario

The European Council held its first-ever meeting of EU leaders exclusively focused on defence on Monday. During the "Informal Retreat", European leaders gathered to discuss the EU's role in defence at a critical time for Europe's security. "We're not discussing the 'if' anymore, we're discussing the 'how'", said Council President Costa, emphasizing a more assertive EU role in security issues. The meeting addressed key topics, including how to effectively develop military capabilities, how to ensure adequate financing while maintaining economic competitiveness, and how to strengthen strategic partnerships. NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer were also invited.

## ENERGY

### Commission steps forward with net-zero infrastructure

Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism, Apostolos Tzitzikostas, has announced a €422 million investment to support the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in road, maritime and air transport. Through this investment, the European Commission has selected 39 innovative projects aimed at driving the transition to cleaner and decarbonised transport. This significant investment aligns with the EU's efforts on competitiveness and decarbonisation and "will accelerate the deployment of critical recharging and refueling infrastructure needed for our expanding zero-emissions fleets", assured the Greek commissioner.

## DIGITAL

### AliExpress, Temu, Shein targeted by the Commission

The European Commission plans to take actions to control the flood of low-value imports from non-EU traders. These actions are part of the Commission's 'A Comprehensive EU Toolbox for Safe and Sustainable E-commerce', aimed at protecting European consumers and promoting environmentally responsible practices. Last year, around 4.6 billion low-value consignments entered the EU market, twice as many as 2023, many of which were found to be non-compliant with EU standards. Therefore, the Commission intends to regulate the e-commerce sector by imposing fees on imported goods and supervising and detecting potentially non-compliant products using the Digital Product Passport and new AI tools.