# #TRENDY THURSDAY

by **ARPA** EU AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS

## SUSTAINABILITY

### Commission steps up to secure critical raw materials

The European Commission has selected 47 Strategic Projects aimed at securing access to critical raw materials within the EU. Located across 13 EU countries, these projects will strengthen the European raw materials value chain and diversify supply sources. Moreover, they will play a key role in achieving the 2030 targets outlined in the Critical Raw Materials Act by ensuring the extraction, processing and recycling of critical raw materials. With an expected overall capital investment of €22.5 billion, these strategic projects will significantly contribute to the EU's green and digital transitions, while supporting its defence and aerospace industries.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Waste regulation revision urges adoption

A new report from the European Environment Agency reveals that Europeans are purchasing more textile products online than ever before. Only in 2022, with affordable online retailers selling large volumes of clothes and shoes daily, the average European discarded as much as 16 kg of clothing. Of this, 85% was neither reused nor recycled. As a result of these findings, the EU faces mounting pressure to accelerate the revision of the Waste Framework Directive, in line with its pledge to meet the 2030 sustainable and circular economy targets. The upcoming rules will require textile companies to pay a fee for processing their products once they become waste, encouraging more sustainable production practices.

## HEALTH

### Hurry up with anti-tobacco legislation, say EU health ministers

Twelve EU health ministers have urged the European Commission to accelerate the pending anti-tobacco legislation. In a letter sent to Commissioner Várhelyi, the ministers called for an end to the delay in the Tobacco Products Directive and the Tobacco Taxation Directive, both of which were initially scheduled for presentation in 2022 and 2024, respectively. "We are concerned with the fact that there is no foreseen date in the near future for the revisions in the updated roadmap", reads the letter. The signatories also urged the Commission to take further action on new nicotine products to protect the health of future generations, advocating for the imposition of restrictions on flavours, nicotine levels and packaging.

## EUROPEAN UNION

### Strong support for the EU, but a lack of unity

The latest European Parliament Eurobarometer survey shows that 3 in 4 European citizens (74%) believe their country has benefited from EU membership. This is the highest result ever recorded in an Eurobarometer survey since the question was first included in 1983. Additionally, the survey highlights strong support for a greater EU role in addressing global crises and security risks, with Europeans also calling for a more important role of the European Parliament. However, a vast majority of the surveyed individuals believe that the EU Member States should be more united in facing current global challenges, with 9 in 10 Europeans advocating for more unity among EU states.

## PREPAREDNESS

### Commission unveils major preparedness roadmap

The European Commission has unveiled its long-awaited Preparedness Union Strategy to enhance Europe's capabilities in preventing and responding to emerging threats. Building on the Niinistö report on EU preparedness and readiness, the strategy outlines 30 key actions and presents a detailed Action Plan, with measures aimed at improving crisis response coordination, promoting population preparedness, developing anticipatory capabilities and strengthening civil-military cooperation. The strategy also addresses public-private collaboration and seeks to enhance cooperation with strategic partners such as NATO to tackle current security challenges.

## ENERGY

### Commission shapes future chemicals regulation

Executive Vice-President Séjourné and Commissioner Roswall have hosted a high-level meeting with representatives from the chemical industry on the upcoming Chemicals Industry Package. The event aimed to gather relevant stakeholders in the chemical supply chain, alongside members of civil society, to address the sector's competitiveness in Europe. The topics discussed during the meeting included simplifying the REACH regulation on chemicals, setting measures to enhance competitiveness and sustainability within the sector and committing to continue working on safeguarding human and environmental health from toxic chemicals, such as the PFAS. The Chemicals Industry Package will be presented in late 2025.