

#TRENDY THURSDAY

DIGITAL

European Commission launches digital oversight investigation against X

The European Commission has opened a new formal investigation against X under the Digital Services Act, while expanding an existing probe into its recommender systems, to assess whether the platform properly assessed and mitigated risks linked to the deployment of its AI tool Grok in the EU. The investigation focuses on potential failures to prevent the spread of illegal and harmful content, including manipulated sexually explicit material and risks to minors. If confirmed, these breaches could violate key DSA provisions, as the Commission conducts an in-depth investigation in close cooperation with Ireland's Digital Services Coordinator.

EU

Cyprus presidency pushes "strategic European autonomy" agenda

Under the motto "An Autonomous Union. Open to the World.", Cyprus will hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU from 1 January to 30 June 2026, guiding the Union through a period of heightened geopolitical complexity. Emphasising strategic autonomy as the next stage of European integration, the Presidency aims to strengthen the EU's internal cohesion and capacity to act independently while remaining open to global cooperation. Cyprus commits to acting as a responsible and honest broker, focused on turning challenges into opportunities and delivering concrete, results-driven outcomes

HEALTH

European Shortages Monitoring Platform fully operational for monitoring of shortages in the EU

The European Shortages Monitoring Platform (ESMP) is now fully operational, enabling marketing authorisation holders and national authorities to report real-time data on the supply, demand and availability of medicines during crises and preparedness actions coordinated by the EMA. Mandatory from 2 February 2025, the platform strengthens EU-wide monitoring and prevention of medicine shortages through harmonised reporting, improved data quality and faster coordination, with public access to information via EU and national shortages catalogues.

TRADE

EU and India conclude landmark Free Trade Agreement

The EU and India have concluded a landmark free trade agreement, the largest ever for both sides, creating a free trade zone of around 2 billion people and significantly deepening economic and political ties. The deal is expected to double EU goods exports to India by 2032 by cutting tariffs on 96.6% of EU exports, saving about €4 billion annually and delivering major benefits for EU industry, agri-food, services and SMEs. It grants unprecedented access to India's fast-growing market, protects sensitive EU agricultural sectors, strengthens intellectual property rules, and includes sustainability and climate commitments, reaffirming support for open, rules-based trade.

AGRIFOOD

Commission makes available €160 million to support EU agri-food sector

The European Commission has launched the 2026 calls for proposals to support promotion campaigns for sustainable, high-quality EU agri-food products in the EU and key global markets, with up to €160 million available in co-financing grants. The calls are part of a record €205 millions promotion budget under the "Enjoy, it's from Europe" label, aimed at raising consumer awareness, rewarding EU farmers for high standards, and strengthening the global competitiveness and resilience of the EU agri-food sector. The programme also includes Commission-led initiatives such as promotion campaigns in third countries, participation in major international trade fairs, export handbooks, high-level visits.

ENERGY

EU countries give final approval to Russian gas ban

The EU has formally adopted a regulation to definitely phase out imports of Russian pipeline gas and LNG, marking a major step toward ending remaining dependence on Russian energy under the REPowerEU strategy. The ban will apply progressively, with ongoing LNG imports fully prohibited from early 2027 and pipeline gas from autumn 2027, alongside strict monitoring, diversification requirements and significant penalties for non-compliance. Member states must prepare national diversification plans by March 2026, while emergency provisions allow temporary suspension if supply security is threatened, reinforcing the EU's move toward a more resilient and autonomous Energy Union.