

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 45/2022

EU Energy Ministers agree on further temporary emergency measures to contain high energy prices

On 24 November, EU Energy Ministers met for an extraordinary Council session to determine the content of the proposal for a Council regulation on further temporary emergency measures to contain high energy prices and improve security of supply. The new rules will make it possible for member states and energy companies to purchase gas jointly on global markets. The regulation also introduces solidarity measures in case of a genuine gas supply shortage, that complement existing rules. The new rules make it possible for member states to reduce the non-essential gas consumption of protected customers, in order to supply gas to essential services and industries: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/11/24/further-measures-to-tackle-the-energy-crisis-council-agrees-on-joint-purchases-of-gas-and-a-solidarity-mechanism/>

European Commission announces creation of European Centre for Algorithmic Transparency for Digital Services Act (DSA)

On 22 November, the European Commission announced the creation of the new European Centre for Algorithmic Transparency. The main purpose of this future centre will be to support the implementation of the new provisions that are included in the DSA by providing technical and scientific expertise. In addition, the future centre will help the European Commission to assess whether the algorithms used by the very large online platforms and other search engines operate in accordance with the risk management requirements of the DSA. The European Centre for Algorithmic Transparency will be operational by the first quarter of 2023: https://algorithmic-transparency.ec.europa.eu/index_en

Member States approve partially unfunded budget for semiconductor ecosystem (EU Chips Act)

On 23 November, Member States' deputy ambassadors to the EU have agreed to fund the semiconductor initiative with up to €3.3 billion, but without using additional Horizon Europe commitments. This implies that in principle, the Member States support the European Commission's ambitions, but technically they are financing €2.9 billion and not €3.3 billion. The text is expected to be presented to EU ministers responsible for industry at the 'Competitiveness' Council on 1 December.

Commissioner Vălean will participate in the Transport Committee to discuss the Work Programme 2023

On 29 November at 14:30, Commissioner Vălean will appear before the Committee to brief the Members about the Commission Work Programme 2023 and other outstanding transport-related files. The debate will be webstreamed.

France and Germany publish joint statement asking for a renewed impetus in EU industrial policy

On 22 November, the French and the German Minister for the Economy co-signed a statement calling for the strengthening of European industrial policy. According to the statement, committed action is necessary to tackle rising energy costs. The European Union should work on better protecting its key strategic industries. Germany and France will closely cooperate to secure Europe's energy supply, ramping up the hydrogen industry and promoting future technologies. In a joint press statement, the two ministers also specifically addressed the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), stressing that the EU might have to respond to the American measures with its own support program: https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Downloads/deu-fra-gemeinsame-erklarung-zur-starkung-der-industriepolitischen-zusammenarbeit.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=8

The Alliance of European Car Dealers and Repairers (AECDR) represents and promotes the interests of 57,500 franchised dealers and authorised repairers. In total these companies employ 1.175,000 people.