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Policy Update
April 2021

Focus page – High-level policy developments

Organic farming: in the framework of the Green Deal and the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies, on 25 March the European Commission [presented](#) an [Action Plan](#) for the Development of Organic Production.

The action plan is designed around 23 actions divided in 3 axes:

- Boosting consumption;
- Increasing production;
- Further improving the sustainability of the sector.

Energy and environment

- **Ecodesign:** the European Commission [published](#) the final draft of the preparatory study on the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Working Plan 2020-2024.
- **Decarbonisation by 2050:** the European Commission has launched an [open consultation](#) on revising the Gas Directive and Gas Regulation.
- **EU Ecolabel:** The European Commission is expected to publish an [initiative](#) around the EU ecolabel criteria for financial products.



Digitalization

DMA/DSA: Thierry Breton, the EU Commissioner for internal market embarked on a Digital Markets/Services Act [‘myth busting’ series](#).

DMA: the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) [published](#) a position paper on the European Commission’s Digital Market Act Proposal.

Digital single Market: the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee [adopted](#) its [report](#) on the Shaping the digital future of Europe initiative.



Artificial Intelligence

AI: the Centre on Regulation in Europe (CERRE) [published](#) the report “EU liability rules for the age of Artificial Intelligence”, aiming to identify the gaps in existing liability rules for cases involving AI technologies.

AI: the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age of the European Parliament [published](#) a working paper on “Artificial Intelligence and the Green Deal”.



Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity: the European Council [adopted](#) conclusions on the EU's Cybersecurity Strategy for the Digital Decade, noting that cybersecurity is essential for building a resilient, green and digital Europe.

Cybersecurity: the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) [released](#) an online tool to support the healthcare sector in identifying procurement good practices to meet cybersecurity objectives when procuring products or services.

Trade

China: on 22 March, the Chinese Government [imposed](#) retaliatory sanctions on EU officials, starting a diplomatic crisis that could slow down the ratification of the Beijing-Brussels trade deal secured in December.

Container shipping: EUIPO and the OECD have jointly released a [study](#) providing a detailed analysis of economy-and industry-specific patterns in the misuse of containerised maritime transport by counterfeiters.

EU's Brexit protocol: After the European Parliament's International trade and Foreign Affairs Committees gave their green light to the bloc's new trade agreement with the UK, EU lawmakers moved closer to ratifying the pact. However, members of the European Parliament are still yet to confirm when they will hold a final plenary vote to ratify it since the leaders of the Parliament's political groups [declined](#) to set a date.

Food

Feed additives: the European Commission [welcomes](#) feedbacks by 17 June on its proposal for a regulation on feed additives for animal nutrition.

GMOs: a majority of European consumers [want](#) to see compulsory labelling on food products containing genetically modified crops, according to a recent report commissioned by the Greens/EFA Group.

Product Compliance and Safety

- **European standardisation framework:** DigitalEurope has published a [position paper](#) on the new European Standardisation Strategy.
- **Counterfeiting:** The European Commission is expected to establish an EU Toolbox against counterfeiting during the second quarter of 2022.



Medical Devices and Health

- **Green pass:** the European Parliament [endorsed](#) the use of the urgent procedure for the adoption of the proposal for a Regulation on a Digital Green Certificate, however a number of [technical problems](#) remain to be addressed. The European Parliament is expected to ratify the COVID certificate in [June](#).
- **Adapted vaccines:** as an immediate action under the [HERA Incubator](#), the Commission introduced a measure to speed up the authorisation of adapted COVID-19 vaccines.
- **EU4Health Programme:** the European Commission [welcomed](#) the entry into force of the [EU4Health programme](#).



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Thank you for your attention!