



THE NEXUS NEWSLETTER

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The EU's Legislative Priorities

By Anna Mrazova

The European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission have released a joint declaration discussing their legislative priorities for the years 2023 and specially 2024.

They have stated six continuous main goals with various other subgoals that they aim to achieve in the coming year. Therefore, what can we expect from the EU in 2024?

1. The delivery of the European Green Deal climate neutrality by the year 2050 and further acting on climate measures such as transportation emissions, reducing waste and environmental impact, and dependency on fossil fuels.

2. Achieving the digital transition and enhancement of the EU's resilience.

3. Boosting competitiveness of the European market and specially focusing on creating employment opportunities for the young generation. The EU institutions have also stated that they will review EU economic governance and support sustainable development globally.

4. Work to achieve a stronger Europe in comparison to the world by supporting Ukraine and develop their humanitarian aid to those in need. They will also focus on combating corruptions and manipulation of foreign information by interference.

5. Promoting the European way of life by giving priority to providing reform to many legislative frameworks concerning asylum seekers and migration. They further want to digitalize and travel documents

6. Protect and develop values of democracy and strengthen the rule of law, equality and antidiscrimination by promoting media pluralism and advertising converting politics and elections.

If you are interested in educating yourself in the goals that the EU tries to meet in the future months, you can follow the link below to read about them in greater detail.

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/resources/library/media/20221215RES64806/20221215RES64806.pdf>



New Animal-Related Legislation in the Netherlands

By Nil Deniz Uder

As of 1st of January 2024, some new regulations will take place in the Netherlands. This new legislation will concern the stricter and more effective punishment of animal abuse and neglect. An example of this is that the raise of 5 years of maximum term of imprisonment for animal abuse and neglect. Moreover, other things that will be punishable include the use of personal data for intimidation purposes.

Lastly, under the new legislation, parents will be entitled to give their children a double surname. To extend further on that, the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages was introduced in the Netherlands in 1811. With the introduction of this act, the newborns were automatically given the father's surname. However, in 1998, it became possible to opt for the mother's surname. As of 1st of January, the children will be entitled to both.





Key Changes in Dutch Legislation

By Tamari Vardiashvili

2024 marks a year of significant legal changes in the Netherlands, with reforms spanning from the workplace to family dynamics and beyond. Let's dive into the key alterations that will shape the landscape of Dutch life in the coming year:

Hourly minimum wage comes into effect

From the new year, changes to minimum wages in the Netherlands will come into effect, introducing a statutory minimum hourly wage and scrapping minimum monthly, weekly and daily wages. Since January 1, 2024, employers have been obliged to pay employees at least the statutory minimum hourly wage of 13,27 euros per hour.

Soft drinks, fruit juices and oat milk will be more expensive

In a bid to encourage people to make healthier choices, the government is increasing its "lemonade tax" on non-alcoholic drinks. However, it's not only fizzy drinks that are set to become more expensive in the new year; the tax also covers things

like plant-based alternatives to dairy, like oat milk, the cost of which will rise by 17 cents per litre next year. To encourage more people to drink water, the government is abolishing the consumption tax on mineral water.

Ban on flavoured vapes

From January 1, 2024, shops in the Netherlands have only been allowed to sell tobacco-flavoured e-cigarettes. This means that vapes containing liquids with sweet or fruity flavours will not be available in the new year, as the government attempts to stop vapes appealing to children and young people.

Parents can give combined surnames to children

From 2024, there will also be a change made to the issuing of Dutch names. The government has passed a new law that means that from January 1, 2024, children born in the Netherlands are able to be registered with both of their parents' surnames. Previously, parents had to choose one partner's surname for their child when applying for a birth certificate, but now it will be



possible to put a double-barrel surname.

Interest on student loans increasing

The interest that graduates pay on their loans after studying in the Netherlands is set to rise to its highest level in 14 years in 2024. The rate is going up from 0,46 to 2,56 percent for most students, although those who received the basic grant (before 2015) will pay an even higher rate of 2,95 percent, up from 1,78 percent previously.

As we navigate through 2024 amidst these legal changes, it's evident that we're in a period of adaptation. These nuanced adjustments, introduced this year, signify a landscape where flexibility and new legal measures come to the forefront.



Impact of COP28

By Aliya Merimeche

The centre of the conference was fossil fuels and due to the juxtaposing positions of states, consensus on this issue was complex. However, moving away from such pollutants was not the only challenge to address, rather, ‘the agenda omitted understanding the environmental footprint of artificial intelligence (AI) amid worsening climate change.’

Although AI is being used to predict climate patterns, efficiency of electric grids, improving crop yields and optimising renewable energy systems it remains to have several environmental drawbacks.

The infrastructure to allow the advancements for AI to exist intensifies greenhouse gas emissions, consumes substantial amounts of energy, and extracts natural resources which marginalises low economically developed countries. Therefore the conference stressed how AI can be used for climate action in developing states whilst ensuring it doesn’t cause a digital divide. As a result following notions have been articulated being: data transparency and the reporting of emissions, water, and energy creating measures to inform global climate strategies that merge AI considerations with climate equity.





New Directive made on EU environmental laws

By Natasha Remba

There have been ground-breaking developments in European environmental legislation following the European Parliament's approval of a new directive on the 17th of January 2024.

The directive was created to empower consumers for the green transition. It deals with the rise in unsupported generic environmental claims, like 'environmentally friendly,' and tackles claims like 'climate neutral' based on emissions offsetting schemes. Furthermore, it governs the use of sustainability labels and implements measures to prevent practices linked to the early obsolescence of consumer products.

Part of a broader EU legislative package, which includes the Eco-design for Sustainable Products Regulation, the proposed Green Claims Directive, and the Right to

Repair Directive, this new directive introduces transformative changes by modifying existing laws, specifically the EU Unfair Commercial Practices Directive and Consumer Rights Directive.

Key reforms involve prohibiting unsupported environmental claims, managing the use of sustainability labels, and establishing a standardised label for extended guarantees. The directive also tackles deceptive practices linked to early product obsolescence, addressing issues like unfounded durability claims, misleading software updates, and false repairability claims.

These changes aim to create a more sustainable and consumer-friendly marketplace in the EU.





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