



SNAPSHOTS OF THE WEEK - Economic and legal interrogations

July 14, 2020

Kigali Amendment hits milestone 100th ratification

The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, an international agreement to cut the use of climate-warming hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), has reached a major milestone, with Liberia becoming the 100th nation to ratify the Amendment, providing a welcome boost to global climate action. The Amendment targets a massive reduction in the use of HFCs, which became widely used refrigerant substitutes for ozone-depleting substances that have been phased out under the Montreal Protocol. HFCs are climate-warming gases with significant global warming potential.

Will the Kigali Amendment meet its targets?

July 14, 2020

France National Day

Known as “Fête nationale” to the French, and Bastille Day in English-speaking countries, France celebrates its national day every year on 14 July. It commemorates a turning point in the French Revolution back in 1789 and is the oldest and largest regular military parade in Europe. This year the parade is being replaced with a far smaller ceremony at the Place de la Concorde, which will celebrate the frontline workers and care staff who have been helping tackle Covid-19. This will be the first year without a parade since the end of the Second World War.

How successful is France in combating its worst crisis since World War II?

July 15, 2020

World Youth Skills Day

Globally, one in five young people are NEET: Not in Employment, Education or Training. Three out of four of young NEETs are women. While the youth population grew by 139 million between 1997 and 2017, the youth labour force shrank by 58.7 million. Almost two out of five young workers in emerging and developing economies live on less than US\$3.10 a day. Prior to current crisis, young people aged 15-24 were three times more likely than adults to be unemployed and often faced a prolonged school-to-work transition period.

How to improve youth skills through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)?

July 15, 2020

European Union-India Summit

India-EU relations date to the early 1960s, with India being amongst the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the European Economic Community. A cooperation agreement signed in 1994 took the bilateral relationship beyond trade and economic cooperation. Negotiations for a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the EU and India were launched in 2007 and suspended in 2013. Even the Indian and EU leadership affirmed the need for “balanced” trade and investment agreements and set up a new high-level trade dialogue, there are still no signs of resumption of talks on a free trade and investment protection agreement.

How the future EU-India bilateral trade relations look like?

July 17, 2020

Japan reveals 87 projects eligible for “China exit” subsidies

Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry unveils the first group of Japanese companies to subsidize for shifting manufacturing out of China to Southeast Asia or Japan. Eighty-seven companies or groups will receive a total of 70 billion yen (\$653 million) to move production lines, in a bid to reduce Japan's reliance on its large neighbour and build resilient supply chains. Thirty of these will shift production to Southeast Asia, including Hoya, which produces hard-drive parts and will move to Vietnam and Laos. Sumitomo Rubber Industries will make nitrile rubber gloves in Malaysia, while Shin-Etsu Chemical will shift production of rare-earth magnets to Vietnam. The other 57 projects will head to Japan..

Will these Japan's efforts to shift production out of China lead to more resilient supply chains?

For further information and detailed analysis, please contact: info@gicel.ch.