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What you need to know to start your day.

## Tat Spat in EU • Departures in Bonn • Elections and Carbon Emissions

By [Chuck McCutcheon](#)

Questions about potential health dangers in tattoos are prompting regulators for 28 European countries to ponder stamping some form of restrictions on the skin signatures.

A man has his arm tattooed during a fair at the Diagona Labège centre in Toulouse on Jan. 10, 2016.  
Photo: Remy Gabalda/AFP/Getty Images

European Union regulators are concerned that tattoo inks and colorants may be harmful even years after tattoos have been applied, [Adam Allington](#) explains in a story being published today.

In the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration has the authority to regulate tattoos, but it has left that up to local governments. The EU, however, has more regulatory skin in the game.

The EU asked Europe's chemicals agency to look into the risks of tattoo inks and permanent makeup on human health. The agency recommended restrictions on some 4,000 substances when used in tattoo inks and permanent makeup—which, if enacted, would become the world's strongest restrictions of their kind.

**The U.N. climate talks** in Bonn are entering their final days, and the U.S. delegation must weather a new complication—its original top negotiators aren't there.

Divisions arose between the differing priorities of official negotiators and a group of Trump administration political appointees who said they were being shut out of the process. Now [Dean Scott](#) reports that State Department diplomat Tom Shannon did not travel to Germany for the talks, while State climate negotiator Trigg Talley left due to a family emergency.

Shannon's replacement is Judith Garber, an acting State Department assistant secretary. But Garber has neither the stature nor the political connection to the

Trump administration that Shannon held.

**Elections have consequences**, and last week's results in the New Jersey and Virginia governors' races are expected to mean an expansion of efforts among Northeast states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

With the election of Democrats Phil Murphy in New Jersey and Ralph Northam in Virginia, the two states could join or become affiliated with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative as early as next year, [Gerald Silverman](#) reports in a story being published this morning. The initiative is a partnership among nine states to cap and reduce the power sector's carbon dioxide emissions. New Jersey used to belong, but GOP Gov. Chris Christie pulled his state out six years ago.

### Other Stories We're Covering

- President Trump's pick to head the Mine Safety and Health Administration is expected to get a Senate confirmation vote today; [Stephen Lee](#) is tracking.
- Evaluating green bonds and the financial risks of moving from fossil energy toward renewable sources are among the topics at Bloomberg's two-day Sustainable Business Summit: London, which kicks off today in the British capital. Michael Liebreich, founder and chairman of the advisory board of Bloomberg New Energy Finance, also will discuss the impacts of President Trump's decision to have the U.S. exit the Paris climate deal. Ali Qassim is covering.
- The Senate's energy committee takes up legislation to drill in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as part of the GOP's massive tax proposal. [David Schultz](#) is covering.
- The multistate Ozone Transport Commission, which advises the EPA on air issues, meets jointly with Mid-Atlantic Northeast Visibility Union to discuss reducing ozone and regional haze. [Jennifer Lu](#) is covering.
- The environment panel of the House's energy committee will mark up four bills today, including legislation dealing with brick kiln emissions. [Jennifer Lu](#) is monitoring.

### Quote of the Day

"It's one thing to be responsive in the immediate aftermath of a hurricane, it's another thing to be engaged in something that we would all call gouging of the taxpayer."

—Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, [questioning](#) the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority's sole-source \$300 million contract with Whitefish Energy Holdings.

### Today's Events

- **8 a.m. • Energy** • West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin, FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee, and others [speak](#) at CQ News/Roll Call forum on

- energy policy.
- **10 a.m. • ARPA-E** • Information Technology & Innovation Foundation holds forum on the Energy Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency's role in clean energy innovation.
  - **10 a.m. • Air Emissions** • The Senate's environment committee will hear about ways to reduce air emissions through innovation.

### **Around the Web**

- Three hundred days into Trump's administration, the EPA, Interior Department, and Department of Energy only have 11 Senate-confirmed officials in place out of a total of 52, according to data compiled by the Partnership for Public Service.
- Apple, Walmart, CVS, Ikea, Whole Foods Market, and Target scored the highest in a group's report card on reducing toxic chemicals in consumer products.
- Volkswagen will pay New Jersey \$69 million to settle a state lawsuit over vehicle-emissions cheating.
- Nuclear regulators want small modular reactors and other new technologies to be ready to deal with emergencies.
- A conservation group warns regulators and the South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. that it intends to sue over coal tar at the bottom of South Carolina's Congaree River.

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