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July - August Edition

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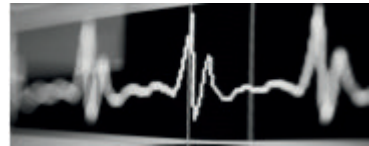
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The Outlook

Economic ([jump to](#)).

Pursuing its goal of a pan-European economic integration, executives meet to discuss data availability and transparency, sustainability, and gender equality. [Read more](#)

Trade experts meet to discuss barriers to trade in road freight transport services, e-commerce, and in least-developed countries (LDC), as well as how to overcome them. [Read more](#)

Global competition experts and policymakers gather to tackle pressing issues including cross-border cartels, digital market competition and merger standards. [Read more](#)

Trade officials and agriculture experts convene to tackle pressing challenges in agricultural trade, from market access to export competition, amidst rising food security concerns. [Read more](#)

Furthering the effort to facilitate sustainable and digital transformations in trade, expert body convenes various industry stakeholders for a week-long series of meetings. [Read more](#)

Global leaders and experts in intellectual property gather to shape the future of international treaties, address geopolitical impacts, and set the global agenda on IP rights amidst rapid technological change. [Read more](#)

Intellectual property meets trade to find the right international balance between innovators and users or innovative solutions, following an upheaval in forms of waiver negotiations. [Read more](#)

Chinese trade policy framework is under scrutiny during its regular review, providing an opportunity for members to delve deep into Chinese laws and practices, and ask (pointing) questions about them. [Read more](#)

The world trading system wraps up for the summer with an all-in session at the end of July with an expectation to double down in autumn. [Read more](#)

World leaders gather aiming to strengthen global standards for the responsible trade of conventional weapons and reduce human suffering. [Read more](#)

Standards and Regulatory ([jump to](#)).

Experts gather to find ways to overcome a key barrier to international exchange of chemicals - harmonizing classification and labelling of these products. [Read more](#)

Becoming an expert on standardization is not as easy as it sounds. Academics and experts meet to further education on standardization across Europe and beyond. [Read more](#)

Risk management, gender-responsive standards, market surveillance, and standardization and regulatory techniques - these are some of the topics discussed by an overarching regulatory and standardization body of experts. [Read more](#)

Experts meet to consider the status of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways. [Read more](#)

Meat standardization has its important meeting, and it looks at revision of standards for ovine and chicken meat, as well as reports on agricultural quality standards. [Read more](#)

Communications and Digital ([jump to](#)).

Telecommunications experts hold a series of meetings to advance discussions related to the internet of things and smart cities. [Read more](#)

Industry experts convene a meeting to push conversations forward regarding relevant economic and telecommunications policies. [Read more](#)

Discover where experts in machine learning and artificial intelligence see how the integration of high-quality datasets into advanced technology networks play a role in development and deployment. [Read more](#)

Experts meet to discuss the structure of telecommunications study groups ahead of telecommunications conference. [Read more](#)

Health ([jump to](#)).

Water being essential for health of humans and nature, experts meet to review and discuss how countries are living up to their commitments in this area. [Read more](#)

As the global health community turns to climate change - its effects and mitigation - as a key driver of good/poor health, experts outline the nexus to the expert public. [Read more](#)

After the failure to conclude an international accord in May 2024, international health experts and leaders gather and discuss a path forward with May 2025 in mind as a new deadline. [Read more](#)

Environment and Sustainability ([jump to](#)).

Parties gather to renew and discuss their efforts in protecting the world's endangered plants while encouraging international trade. [Read more](#)

Members convene to continue their efforts preserving and protecting the world's endangered wild fauna while stimulating international trade. [Read more](#)

Environmental experts to discuss producer responsibility for plastics pollution highlighting research findings on brand names' use in companies' accountability for pollution. [Read more](#)

Annual climate change forum examines ideas, concepts, and areas for development for producers and users of climate change-related statistics. [Read more](#)

Social ([jump to](#)).

Consumer protection is gaining traction across the world, including in international organizations, where experts convene to discuss relevant guidelines, their effectiveness, and their implementation. [Read more](#)

As part of a search for a GDP alternative, a seminar explores measuring wellbeing based on country case studies, and attempts to improve wellbeing guidelines. [Read more](#)

Science and Technology ([jump to](#)).

A workshop on exploring the future of satellite technology, its vital role in media applications, and opportunities for industry collaboration. [Read more](#)

Youth and Sports ([jump to](#)).

Whoever the winner of Euro 2024 tournament, football officials oversee it also with a view to replenish the coffers. [Read more](#)

Humanitarian and Human Rights ([jump to](#)).

Global human rights leaders finalize their session with a view to implement solutions and policies aimed at addressing human rights violations worldwide, apart from dominating crises. [Read more](#)

Civil and political rights leaders unite to tackle issues of access and participation in civil and political life. [Read more](#)

Issues faced by indigenous peoples come to forefront in discussions on legislative and constitutional frameworks around the globe. [Read more](#)

World leaders convene to tackle racial discrimination in their (and other) nations, collaborating on innovative solutions and policy frameworks. [Read more](#)

Accessibility rights experts convene to enhance cooperation with competent bodies on the implementation of treaty guidelines surrounding

the rights of people with disabilities and the empowerment of women and girls. [Read more](#)

Questions? As you read the below, please do not hesitate to [contact one of the authors](#) for more information.

Economic

On July 1, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe ([UNECE](#)) holds its 134th annual [Executive Committee](#) meeting to discuss data transparency and sustainability issues, as well as review the implementation of the Beijing [Platform](#) for Action. The UNECE promotes pan-European economic integration, including via harmonizing standards, and its members include 56 states in Europe, North America and Asia—though any UN member state may participate - and thus the UNECE impacts standards globally - as can professional organizations and other nongovernmental organizations. The Beijing Platform for Action is a declaration adopted by 189 countries to promote gender equality via economic empowerment and representation in decision-making for women and girls.

The World Trade Organization ([WTO](#)) Council for Trade in Services meets July 4 to continue implementing LDC services [waivers](#) and the Work Programme on [electronic commerce](#). The council also takes note of members' notifications regarding General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) provisions. Additionally, the Council subsidiary Committee on Specific Commitments meets on July 2 to examine classification and scheduling issues regarding WTO members' specific GATS commitments. The Trade in Financial Services committee meets on July 3 and serves as a forum for technical discussions and examination of regulatory developments affecting financial services and trade.

The UN Trade and Development's ([UNCTAD](#)) [Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy](#) meets [annually](#) to discuss and enhance global cooperation on competition policy. This year, the 22nd session takes place from July 3 to 5. [Topics](#) include cross-border cartels, competition law in digital markets and merger control standards. The meeting aims to facilitate dialogue, share best practices and review capacity-building efforts in competition law and policy. Member states and various organizations participate to foster international collaboration.

From July 1-2, World Trade Organization ([WTO](#)) hosts an [agriculture workshop](#) to address contemporary challenges in the sector within the context of WTO negotiations. The event features issues such as market access, domestic support and export competition. Experts and stakeholders from around the world participate to discuss and find solutions to these challenges. The workshop aims to foster dialogue and understanding to support sustainable agricultural development. The WTO Committee on Agriculture [Special Session](#) on July 5, focuses on negotiations to reform agricultural trade rules. It addresses key issues such as market access, domestic support, and [export competition](#). These sessions aim to achieve a

fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system, promoting sustainability and enhancing global agricultural trade policies.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe ([UNECE](#)) hosts the Sustainable and Digital Trade Facilitation [Week](#) from July 8-12 featuring the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) 42nd [Forum](#), and 30th [Plenary](#) meetings. The events convene UN agencies, international organizations, and other stakeholders for discussions on how to integrate climate-smart connectivity and digital trade solutions into value chains to support a resilient green and digital transformation.

The 65th Series of Meetings of the World Intellectual Property Organization ([WIPO](#)) [General Assemblies](#) takes place from July 9-17. The WIPO General Assemblies are the main policy and [decision-making bodies](#), bringing together [member states](#) to discuss progress and future directions in the organization's work. The key political issue on the agenda this year is the reflection of impacts of the Russian war of aggression on the Ukrainian IP infrastructure and ecosystem. The member states also look into nearing an agreement on various normative instruments, such as on broadcasting or traditional knowledge. Select senior officials also convene meetings on artificial intelligence (AI) and IP. The assembly's outcomes include reports from various committees on copyright, patents and trademarks, shaping the global agenda on IP.

The World Trade Organization ([WTO](#)) Council on Trade related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights ([TRIPS](#)) meets July 10-11 to continue its regular work. Following heated debates on whether or not to waive IP rights in times of crises, the membership turns to regular discussions, for example on notifications of national laws, the role of IP in biodiversity, or IP-related technical assistance and capacity building. However, the members also face a review process that some members are keen to lead in revisiting the wording of this WTO Agreement which serves as the foundation of international minimum standards on IP rights protection and use.

The World Trade Organization ([WTO](#)) Trade Policy Review ([TPR](#)) body meets July 17-19 to conduct its regular review of the China's trade practices and policies. In advance of the meeting, the country under review and the WTO secretariat circulate separate reports and receive questions from body members. China brings to the session their written responses to member questions and are expected to respond to any further and follow up questions during the second day of the session. The meeting is an opportunity for WTO members, including the U.S., to scrutinize China's trade policies and put on record questions, answers and concerns. Ambassador Dandy Satria Iswara, Ambassador of Indonesia, takes up the role of a discussant to add yet another perspective to the scrutiny.

The World Trade Organization ([WTO](#)) [General Council](#) meets July 22-23. This last pre-summer session of the organization's top governing body carries a full agenda with delegations trying to put a marker down for autumn and beyond discussions. More recently, some delegations, including the U.S., raised a topic of WTO's decision making by consensus, which met with a push back from others, particularly India. African members push hard for discussions on development and policy space, and Brazil and other food exporting countries call for proper negotiations on agriculture. This all with negotiations of the dispute

settlement system reform, an essential pillar of the organization, having moved to the front and center.

The [Tenth Conference of States Parties \(CSP10\)](#) to the Arms Trade Treaty ([ATT](#)) takes place from August 19-23. The [ATT](#) is a [multilateral treaty](#) that regulates the international trade in conventional weapons, aiming to reduce human suffering caused by illegal and irresponsible arms transfers. It promotes cooperation, transparency and responsible action by States Parties in the [international trade in conventional arms](#), with the goal of improving regional security and stability.

Standards and Regulatory



The 46th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council ([ECOSOC](#)) Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals [takes place](#) from July 3-5. The [agenda](#) focuses on work on the globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals, specifically implementation and development of application guidance. The group also considers capacity building and a number of proposals regarding clarifications and revisions to existing standards, with the aim of global harmonization of chemicals classification and labelling, and its constant evolution.

The education and standardization initiative (START-Ed) meeting [takes place](#) on July 5 and is a follow up from the yearly meeting in April. The agenda includes a presentation from [Professor Knut Blind](#), TU Berlin & Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft on the [EDU4Standards project](#) which aims to innovate standardization education within European Higher Education Institutes. Additional sessions include presentations from [Žaneta Lacová](#), Matej Bel University, on a report of survey results “Mapping the needs in Education on Standardization” and [Professor Philippe Le Coustumer](#), Université de Bordeaux, expert AFNOR/ISO, on Current challenges in Education on Standardization.

The 34th Session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies [meets from](#) August 26-28. Topics include reports from the [Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems](#), the [Team of Specialists on Gender-responsive Standards](#), the [Advisory Group on Market Surveillance](#) and the [Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques](#). Discussion also considers a publication on the [Basics of Quality Infrastructure for Trade](#) and a report on the [quality infrastructure for trade and the digital and green transformation](#). A final item on the agenda is a panel discussion on “Quality infrastructure helping to prevent a green and digital divide - identifying challenges for capacity development for sustainable trade in developing economies.”

The 44th Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) [meets from](#) August 26-30 and the 32nd session of the Administrative Committee of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) [takes place](#) on August 30. Both meetings [focus](#) on the status of the ADN, with an

additional item on the [Joint Meeting agenda](#) to discuss the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 32nd meeting of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat [takes place](#) from August 28-30. The meeting considers revisions of standards for [ovine meat](#) and chicken meat, as well as digitization of the standard for bovine meat. Additional items include consideration of a [report](#) on of the 78th session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and [revised working procedures](#) for the Working Party. The group also [discusses](#) alignment of the Economic Commission for Europe cut codes with the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.

Communications and Digital



The International Telecommunications Union's (ITU) Study Group 20 ([SG20](#)), is one of the leading ITU bodies to discuss regulatory actions for smart cities and the internet of things (IoT). SG20 holds a meeting from July 1 to July 12 to build upon previous recommendations of what smart cities should consist of, and the metadata for camera sensing information of autonomous IoT devices. The meetings explore member submissions ranging from implementing World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly ([WTSA](#)) resolutions, questions for the ITU's next study period, and more.

The International Telecommunications Union's (ITU) Study Group 3 ([SG3](#)), under the ITU's telecommunications standards body (ITU-T), convenes for over a week (July 9-18) to address issues at the nexus of economic policy and international telecommunications policy. Members file recommendations on interoperability for competition in mobile financial services, work items for the study group and the results of previous meetings with the ITU's Focus Group on the Metaverse ([FG-MV](#)) and the ITU's study group on future networks ([SG13](#)), as well as advancing conversations related to the roaming aspects of IoT and machine to machine.

The International Telecommunications Union's (ITU) Study Group 13 ([SG13](#)), a leader in standard-setting for future and emerging network technologies, holds a series of meetings to developments in the artificial intelligence and machine learning spaces. During this series of meetings, the ITU hosts a workshop on AI and ML datasets for future networks, in which they discuss the use cases and models for future networks, alongside the needed datasets and tools, open issues in research and industry, and what a standardization roadmap looks like, all of which takes place on July 16. On July 19, the Joint Coordination Activity on Machine Learning ([JCA-ML](#)), convenes for their fifth meeting. Lastly, the Joint Coordination Activity on International Mobile Telecommunications ([JCA-IMT2020](#)) meets on July 22, to continue to develop standards, recommendations and reports to ensure the effective deployment and management of IMT systems worldwide. Interested stakeholders can register [here](#) for the workshop, register [here](#) for the JCA-ML meeting, register [here](#) for the JCA-IMT2020 meeting and register [here](#) for the SG13 meetings.

The International Telecommunications Union's (ITU) Telecommunications Standardization Advisory Group ([TSAG](#)) meets from July 29 to August 2. In these sessions, TSAG works to

restructure ITU-T study groups. This meeting centers around the preparation of ITU-T study groups for the World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly ([WTSA](#)). Moreover, TSAG evaluates previous resolutions from the WTSA, and prepare deliverables on how the study groups have followed relevant recommendations from the WTSA. Interested parties can register [here](#) for the event.

Health

The UN Economic Commission for Europe's ([UNECE](#)) [Water and Health Protocol Compliance Committee meets](#) July 2 to review the state of implementation and compliance among its member states, as well as assist and facilitate compliance in various jurisdictions. The body also discusses reporting requirements. This all with the aim of making European and global waters safe from environmental as well as health perspectives.

On 10 and 17 July, the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) [hosts webinars](#) on various climate change and health topics. The sessions focus on climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities and projecting future health risks of climate change. Participants discuss conducting a climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessment; developing a Health National Adaptation Plan; assessing climate finance for health; and climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities.

On 16-17 July, the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) convenes the [10th session](#) of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body ([INB](#)). The process aims at building an international agreement that prioritizes equity, sovereignty, prevention, preparedness and response to any future pandemic, based on lessons learned from COVID-19. Despite efforts, negotiators missed the original target of conclusion of May 2024 and now are set to work for one more year. This July session focuses on procedure, for example (re-)appointment of co-chairs and members of the INB bureau, as well as on working methods.

Environment and Sustainability

From 8-13 July, the [27th meeting of the Plants Committee](#), part of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ([CITES](#)), takes place. The session takes up various procedural, administrative, strategic, scientific and implementation matters. Specifically, the Committee discusses planning and implementation strategies until 2025 and prepares for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20).

From 12-19 July, the [23rd meeting of the Animals Committee](#), part of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ([CITES](#)), takes place. The session takes up procedural, administrative, scientific, and implementation matters. Specifically, the Committee discusses strategic planning and implementation until 2025 and prepares for the 20th meeting of CoP20.

On 23 July, the [Geneva Environment Network](#) hosts leading experts sharing their findings on how brand names can be used to hold plastic companies accountable for items found polluting the environment. The [research](#) shows a positive correlation between companies' annual production of plastic and their branded plastic pollution. The experts discuss how these findings can aid the development of the legally binding treaty that member states are developing, ahead of the next round of negotiations of the [plastics pollution treaty](#).

From August 29-30, producers and users of climate information gather to discuss future collaboration, ideas and experience, concepts and measurement issues, and areas for development of practical guidance. The [UNECE hosts the two-day forum](#) where experts provide a link between producers and users of climate-change related statistics, and support the implementation of the [CES Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics](#) and the [CES Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics Using the System on Environmental-Economic Accounting](#).

Social

The Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, a body established under the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection, [convenes](#) from July 1-2 to report on the implementation of the guidelines by member states and relevant stakeholders. In the agenda, the IGE examines the [voluntary peer reviews](#) conducted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development of Morocco, Indonesia, Peru, Chile, Thailand and Gabon. Additionally, the IGE holds working groups on consumer product safety, consumer protection in electronic commerce, and consumer protection and gender. Afterward, the IGE convenes roundtables on facilitating the [development of independent consumer groups](#) and on [protecting tourists](#). The secretariat presents oral reports regarding [capacity building and technical assistance on consumer protection law](#), and voluntary peer reviews.

The UN Economic Commission for Europe's (UNECE) holds a [Seminar on Measurement of Wellbeing](#) from July 8-9. Measurement of Wellbeing examines metrics such as culture, health, education, environment, government, housing, standard of living, satisfaction, transportation, time balance and community. In this [meeting](#), the Seminar reviews the quality and purpose of the standing measurement. Following review, the Seminar examines country reports and case studies from the United Kingdom, [Ireland](#), [South Korea](#), Netherlands, Canada and [Morocco](#). In the final session, the Seminar discusses draft chapters that outline key principles of wellbeing measurement frameworks, communication of wellbeing indicators, and the development of a national wellbeing measurement framework for Chapters [Two](#), [Three](#), [Seven](#) and [Eight](#).

Science and Technology

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) hosts a [workshop](#) titled "Ensuring Satellite Remains Available for Media Applications" on July 3, 2024. The workshop is open to all and covers topics such as the use of satellite platforms for distribution, newsgathering and future trends in broadcasting. The event explores new satellite technologies, including the rise of

Non-Geostationary Orbit (NGSO), the direct-to-device (D2D) satellite use case and the integration of 5G Broadcast into the ecosystem. The workshop also discusses the benefits of 5G non-terrestrial networks (NTN) for the satellite industry and concludes with a focus on the current regulatory regime, the upcoming WRC-27 conference and potential cooperation opportunities between EBU members and the satellite industry. Please register [here](#) and find the program [here](#).

Youth and Sports

The Union of European Football Association's ([UEFA](#)) EURO 2024 takes place at stadiums across Germany until July 14. Germany was selected to host the 24-nation event back in September 2018 at UEFA's headquarters, near Geneva, by a vote of 12 to 4. EURO 2024 plays a critical role for UEFA financially, who aim to replenish the cash reserves that were decimated over the pandemic. The tournament is expected to spark revenue of around €2.5 billion, as supporters from across Europe come to watch their nations play. UEFA anticipates that nearly half of its EURO 2024 income goes to support the work ahead of the next EURO tournament.

Humanitarian & Human Rights

The [UN Human Rights Council meets](#) from June 18 to July 12. Numerous reports are submitted to the Council for discussion during the session. Apart from the crises and wars that dominate the discussions, as well as media reports, two notable reports highlight a humanitarian approach to substance abuse disorder and the record number of displaced people due to global conflict and natural disasters. Tialeng Mofokeng, Special Rapporteur on health, submits a report calling for an end to the war on drugs, describing it instead as a war on people. Mofokeng cites the lack of human rights in enforcement as causing punitive consequences against the world's most vulnerable people. Paula Betancur's report calls on member states of the Human Rights Council to acknowledge the losses, hardships, and stories behind the record number of displaced people.

The 141st [session](#) of the [UN](#) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights meets from July 1-23. This session considers reports from Croatia, Honduras, India, Maldives, Malta, Suriname and the Syrian Arab Republic. Civil Society Organizations submit information for the session, focusing on eradicating the [death penalty](#) and [corporal](#) punishment. This issue appears in state reports and new issues reported by additional countries. Additionally, the convention emphasizes women's rights, addressing barriers to reproductive health and violence worldwide. Organizations like the Autonomous [Women's House Zagreb](#), [Center for Reproductive Rights](#) and [Hope for Women](#) contribute information to the session.

The [Expert Mechanism](#) holds its [17th session](#) from July 8-12, fulfilling its mandate to examine principles, good practices, challenges, and suggestions to protect the rights of Indigenous people. The Expert Mechanism presents a [draft study](#) on constitutions, laws, legislations, policies, judicial decisions, and other mechanisms States have taken to fulfill the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. The study concludes with policy recommendations and obligations. Aligning with other UN human rights sessions, the rights of indigenous peoples during post-conflict scenarios and peace agreements are the

topic of a panel discussion and in the annual report of the Expert Mechanism to the Human Rights Council. This session also addresses ways to increase Indigenous Peoples access to the United Nations and participation.

The 113th session of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination meets August 5-23 to consider seven State reports and discuss procedures to prevent racial discrimination. The reports submitted by The United Kingdom, Venezuela, Pakistan, Iran, Belarus and Bosnia and Herzegovina fulfill their party obligations by submitting reports addressing the implementation of rights in their respective countries. Discussions at the session cover various forms of discrimination. Venezuela focuses on Indigenous Peoples' access to rights and participation in political life, while Iraq's submission centers on developing policy frameworks and domestic laws. Additionally, the Committee reviews follow-ups from the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2006 to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. The 31st Session of the CRPD convenes from August 12 to September 5. There is a periodic reporting requirement and State parties of the CRPD must ensure the full realization of the guidelines. The Committee considers the initial reports of Belarus, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana and the Netherlands, and the second and third reports of Belgium, Denmark, Mauritius and Ukraine. In addition, the Committee considers submissions under the Optional Protocol by individuals and groups. The Committee discusses how to enhance cooperation between non-governmental organizations, such as organizations of persons with disabilities, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies.

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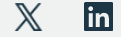
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