

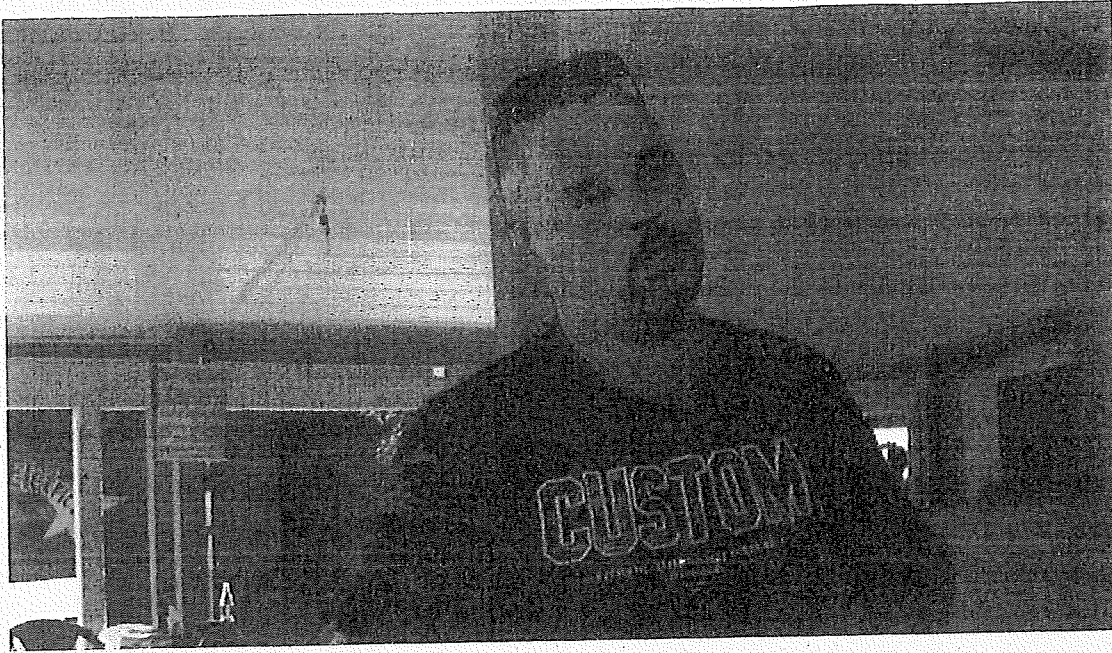
According to a recent study from the think tank Ipam (Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazonia), a third of all deforestation happens in publicly-owned forests in the Amazon.

Facebook said it would not reveal how it planned to find the illegal ads but said it would "seek to identify and block new listings" in protected areas of the Amazon rainforest.

Illegal deforestation exposed

In February, the BBC Our World documentary **Selling the Amazon** revealed that plots of rainforest as large as 1,000 football pitches were being listed on Facebook's classified ads service.

3



Alvim Souza Alves was trying to sell land for about £16,400

Many of the plots were inside protected areas, including national forests and land reserved for indigenous peoples.

In order to prove the ads were real, the BBC arranged meetings between four sellers and an undercover operative posing as a lawyer claiming to represent wealthy investors.

One land-grabber, Alvim Souza Alves, was trying to sell a plot inside the Uru Eu Wau Wau indigenous reserve for about £16,400 in local currency.

In response to the BBC's investigation, Brazil's Supreme Federal Court ordered an inquiry into the sale of protected areas of the Amazon via Facebook.

Despite calls from indigenous leaders to do more, at the time Facebook said it was "ready to work with local authorities", but would not take independent action to halt the trade.

Now the company says it has consulted the UN Environment Programme (Unep) and other organisations to take its "first steps" in trying to address the issue.

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Sebastian Kurz: Austrian leader resigns amid corruption inquiry

Sebastian Kurz said he would fight the charges against him

Austria's Chancellor Sebastian Kurz has stepped down, after pressure triggered by a corruption scandal.

He has proposed Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg as his replacement.

Mr Kurz and nine others were placed under investigation after raids at a number of locations linked to his conservative People's Party (ÖVP).

The allegations this week took his coalition government to the brink of collapse after its junior partner, the Greens, said Mr Kurz was no longer fit to be chancellor.

The Greens began talks with opposition parties, who were threatening to bring a vote of no confidence against the chancellor next week.

Greens leader and Vice Chancellor Werner Kogler welcomed Mr Kurz's resignation and indicated he would be willing to work with Mr Schallenberg, saying they had a "very constructive" relationship.

• Mystery of the honey-trap video that shook Austria

"What's required now is stability. To resolve the impasse I want to step aside to prevent chaos," Mr Kurz said as he announced his resignation.

He said he would remain leader of his party, and continue to sit in parliament.

"First and foremost, however, I will of course use the opportunity to disprove the allegations against me," he added.

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The Sentiero dei Parchi will cross 20 regions, pass through six Unesco sites and stretch nearly 8,000km

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After Italy became the global epicentre for the coronavirus pandemic and imposed some of Europe's strictest lockdown measures last spring, the Italian National Tourism Research Institute reported that more than 27 million Italians chose hiking trips for their summer holiday last year, with nearly half of Italians wanting an immersive nature holiday. The study, titled Covid Changes the Holidays of Italians, concluded, "The fear of the virus... allowed Italians to discover and try a new way of going on vacation." The Italian financial newspaper Il Sole 24 Ore termed this trend "a paradigm shift caused by the need for social distance, the desire to visit small, uncrowded places and the need for air and movement".

In response, last May as restless Italians emerged from one of the world's longest nationwide lockdowns, Italy's Ministry of the Environment and the storied 158-year-old Italian Alpine Club announced an ambitious €35m, 13-year plan to extend Italy's existing Sentiero Italia (the Grand Italian Route) by roughly 1,000km to form a new path connecting each of Italy's 25 national parks, including those on the islands of Sardinia and Sicily. When it's completed in 2033, the new route, known as the Sentiero dei Parchi (Path of the Parks) will cross each of the country's 20 regions, pass through six Unesco World Heritage sites and stretch nearly 8,000km - twice the length of the US' Appalachian Trail and roughly 10 times the distance of the Camino de Santiago's complete St Jean Pied de Port to Galicia route.



Paola Giussaroli

The government says it wants to "protect the legitimate rights and interest of citizens in cyberspace".

China already uses facial recognition technology to survey its population.

It is a world leader in such technologies, but their intensifying use across the country in recent years has sparked debate.

What are the new rules?

When signing up for new mobile or mobile data contracts, people are already required to show their national identification card (as required in many countries) and have their photos taken.

But now, they will also have their faces scanned in order to verify that they are a genuine match for the ID provided.

China has for years been trying to enforce rules to ensure that everyone using the internet does so under their "real-name" identities.

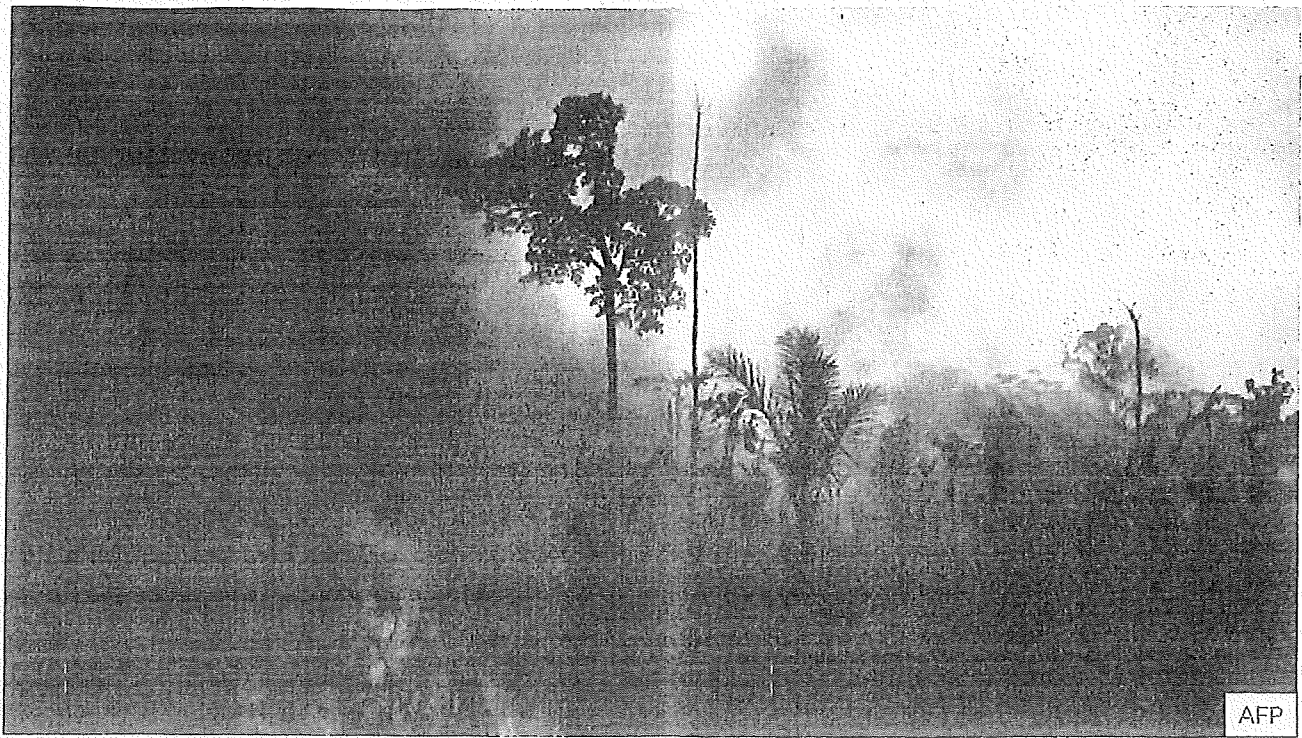
In 2017, for example, new rules required internet platforms to verify a user's true identity before letting them post online content.

The new regulation for telecom operators was framed by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology as a way to "strengthen" this system and ensure that the government can identify all mobile phone users. Most Chinese internet users access the web via their phones.

Jeffrey Ding, a researcher on Chinese artificial intelligence at Oxford University, said that one of China's motivations for getting rid of anonymous phone numbers and internet accounts was to boost cyber-security and reduce internet fraud.

But another likely motivation, he said, was to better track the population: "It's connected to a very centralised push to try to keep tabs on everyone, or that's at least the ambition."

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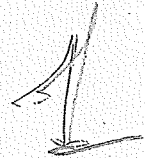
Google says it will stop ads running on climate change-denying YouTube videos and other content, and prohibit ads promoting these claims.

The company says it is responding to concerns from advertisers.

The ban will cover ads for - and the monetization of - content that contradicts the "scientific consensus around the existence and causes of climate change".

It will be enforced by "automated tools and human review".

The policy will apply to content "referring to climate change as a hoax or a scam, claims denying that long-term trends show the global climate is warming, and claims denying that greenhouse gas emissions or human activity contribute to climate change".



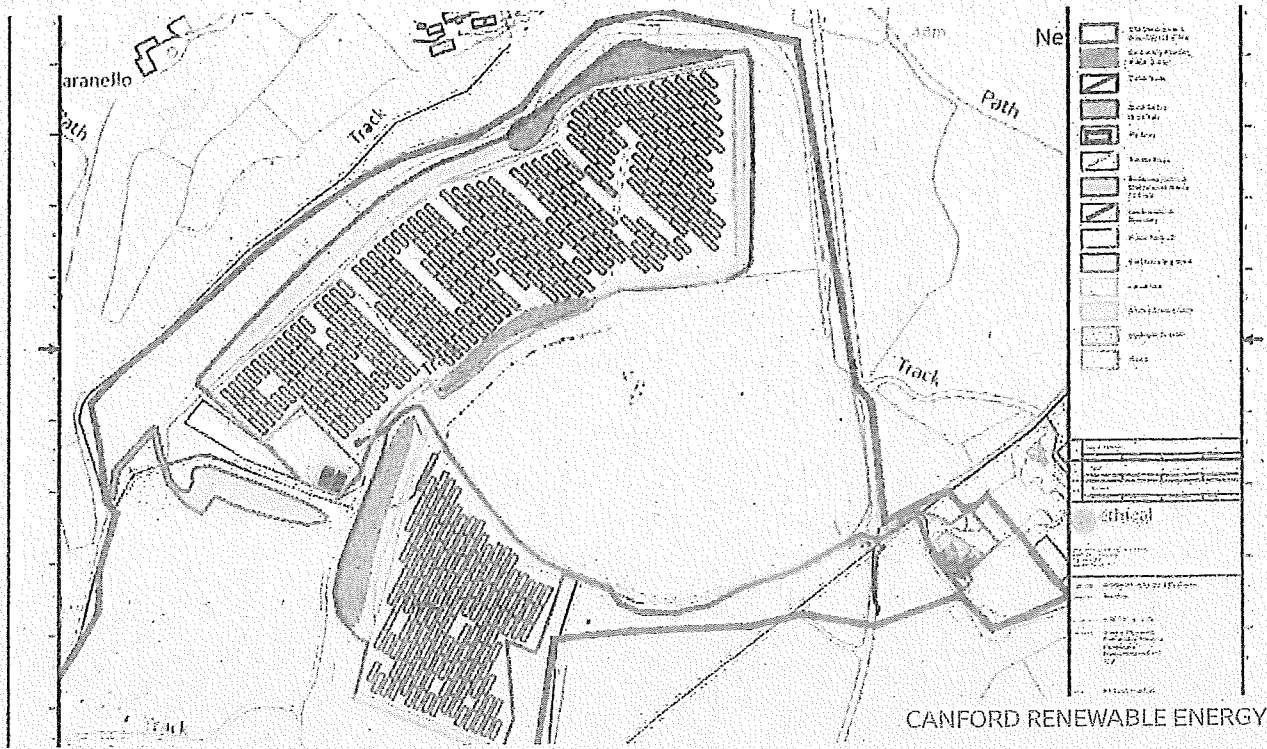
Misinformation money

The changes mean YouTube creators will be stopped from earning advertising revenue from content which denies climate change.

A 2020 report by Avaaz - a US not-for-profit organisation which promotes activism on issues such as climate change - accused YouTube of "incentivizing this climate misinformation content via its monetization program".

Fadi Quran, who runs Avaaz's disinformation project, told the BBC it "could turn the tide on the climate denial economy".





Canford Renewable Energy plans to expand its existing operation at the former landfill site

Plans for Dorset's first hydrogen fuel processor have moved a step closer after a council agreed a £1.5m grant to build the facility.

Canford Renewable Energy wants to expand its operations at a former landfill site at Canford Resource Park.

Its proposal includes the installation of an adjoining solar park to power the facility.

The grant from Low Carbon Dorset would contribute to total project costs of just under £6m.

If approved, the development would be permitted to remain on the green belt site for 40 years.

The planning application for the site, submitted in March, covers more than 11 hectares of land at the restored White's Pitt landfill site, off Magna Road, Poole.

The firm said the expanded plant would produce enough hydrogen each year to fuel the equivalent of 900,000 miles travelled by lorries.

Low Carbon Dorset is a five-year programme of activities, funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Administered by Dorset Council, it is intended to stimulate growth in the county's low carbon economy and reduce its footprint.

The grant marks the first time the programme will have made a single payment over £500,000, according to the Local Democracy Reporting Service

6
Red

Emma Baumert admits that when she first put on the high-tech headband she felt silly. "But I also felt so cool wearing it, because I'm such a nerd."

The 24-year-old from Illinois is a member of the USA Bobsled/Skeleton development team.

An all-round athlete, she is also a qualified weightlifting coach, and this year gained a masters degree in exercise physiology.

The headband she now uses is a neurofeedback or EEG (electroencephalogram) device. Growing in popularity among sports people, they measure the wearer's brainwaves.

As a stressed brain gives off more waves or signals, due to increased electrical activity, the idea is, that, together with meditation, the headbands can help the user train him or herself to be calmer. And then in turn boost their performance.

But are such devices, which are otherwise used by doctors to test for conditions such as epilepsy and strokes, really beneficial in helping people to reduce their stress?

Ms Baumert says she wanted to find out after trying out a headset called FocusCalm two years ago. "After using it myself, I was like 'I want to do more research on this'," she says.

