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'EU officials must face charges for complicity in war crimes'

The UN's special rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, Francesca Albanese, doesn't hesitate to use the term genocide. "It is genocide. I know people are uncomfortable with that word, but what else can we call it?" she says. The UN rapporteur says that she is currently working on a report where she will expose the banks, the pension funds, the tech companies and universities that are aiding and abetting Israel's violations of international law, human rights and war crimes.



And she firmly rejects the framing of Israel's war in Gaza as self-defence. "The International Court of Justice had already ruled — before October 7 — that Israel has no right to wage war on a territory it illegally occupies. So no, this is not self-defence." This, she says, means that EU officials such as von der Leyen and the foreign affairs chief, Kallas are complicit as EU-relations with Israel is business as usual.

"I call for these top EU officials, and others, to face charges of complicity of war crimes over their support for Israel's 19 month of assault on Gaza. This cannot be met with impunity" A complaint against der Leyen for complicity of war crimes was filed at the International Court of Justice, by the Geneva International Peace Research Institute.

EU plans to classify weaponry as sustainable



Labelling arms as sustainable demonstrates how the military-industrial complex tightly controls the EU. Von der Leyen's Green New Deal, enables the greenwashing of war—the dirtiest business of all. Nothing is as harmful to the climate as war and destruction, but now tanks that save fuel or missiles produced more efficiently are supposed to be climate-friendly.

The plans to classify arms as sustainable have been linked to [a significant lobbying](#) campaign by the weapons manufacturing industry. There is a real danger, however, that the rapid escalation of the militarisation of the EU could completely derail all efforts to tackle the climate crisis, absorbing all political attention, diverting resources from climate action and adding to the problem through increased military greenhouse gas emissions.

PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT
GLUAISEACHT AN PHOBAIL



Protest against EU Militarisation

Wednesday 17th July at 1:00pm at
Dáil Eireann, Kildare St.

No to an EU Army!

Keep the triple lock

Active neutrality—our best defence!

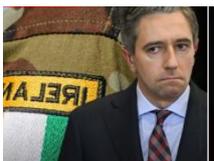
We may have to find €1.5 billion for the EU military



According to Christophe Gomar, the co-chair of the Security and Defence Committee, €100 billion for the military should be in the EU's next seven-year budget (MFF). This could be achieved if EU countries increase their direct contributions to a defence budget in the MFF. Current contributions to the EU budget are set at about 1% of GNI. If countries agree to increase that contribution by 0.5 percentage points to 1.5%, it works out at an extra €100 billion. That's €1.5 billion from us based on Ireland's 2023 GNI. This would be on top of the €800 billion already pledged to the EU military.

Others have previously pitched the same figure for the military: current Defence Commissioner Kubilius, former Defence Commissioner Thierry Breton, now the chair of the main European military industry lobby ASD and several Eastern European countries. The 2021-27 EU defence & security budget runs to €16.4 billion, or about €2.3 billion a year, although EU countries altogether spent €326 billion on militarisation in 2024.

Harris claims that this as his mandate to remove the Triple Lock



Of the two parties in government, Fine Gael made no reference to the Triple Lock in its [2024 election manifesto](#) while Fianna Fáil committed to 'sensible reform' of it. Though Tánaiste Simon Harris [later claimed](#) that removal of the Triple Lock 'was in my party's manifesto', it was not, and a review of the manifesto will attest to that fact.

"I promised the people of Ireland, when I ran in a general election, that if I were elected to government, I intended to do this and I intend to keep my promises. It was in my party's manifesto".

The EU's abject fudge on EU-Israel Association Agreement



If Israel doesn't "improve the situation" in Gaza, the EU will discuss "further measures" on how to suspend its association agreement with Tel Aviv at its next meeting in July, according to foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas. If the situation does not improve, it will be up to Kallas to explore "options" to suspend the agreement.

Though a complete suspension of the agreement appears unlikely because there is no unanimity among member states, one option envisaged would be to partially suspend certain provisions related to free trade, research, technology in the EU-Israel association agreement. Meanwhile, the genocide continues, with Israeli forces using tank fire to kill the starving Gazans queuing for food, and inflicting heavy casualties on civilians in the West Bank.

Military spending to cost us an arm and a leg



As the EU moves towards a 5% military spending target, complementary NATO – 23 members states are already members of NATO -it is useful to estimate the potential cost to Ireland. To calculate 5% of Ireland's GDP, we first need to know the current GDP figure. Ireland's GDP in 2023 was €509.952 billion at current prices. So, 5% of €509.952 billion is €25.4976 billion. In 2023, Ireland's total government expenditure reached €115.9 billion. That means that 21.7% of govt expenditure would go on arms.

"Level 3" refers to Level of Ambition 3 (LOA3), a proposed framework for developing military capabilities. LOA3 was outlined by the Commission on the Defence Forces and includes expanding the Naval Service and potentially acquiring fighter jet-aircraft. At 3%, Level 3 would spend 15.2bn or 13.2% of govt expenditure. Compare that with the €6.3bn spent on housing in 2023!

EU fund supports Israeli military in Gaza



An Israeli state defence company directly involved in the Gaza conflict is benefiting from millions in EU defence funding, thanks to an exemption allowing foreign-owned entities to participate in the bloc's military projects, according to [Investigate Europe](#).

The European Defence Fund (EDF) is designed to enhance the EU's military capabilities by financing domestic innovation, yet at least €15 million has been awarded to Greece's Intracom Defense, since it was acquired in May 2023 by Israel's largest state-owned aerospace and military company. Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), which is controlled by the government of Israel, acquired the firm to capitalise on an "ever-increasing demand for air defense" systems in Europe, according to IAI's press announcement at the time.

Its war on workers and citizens as EU military spending soars

Workers, trade unions, and social protections are today being swept off the EU'S agenda as impulses that were already present in the EU establishment are reawakened. During her second term von der Leyen has erased even the notion of workers' interests from EU policies and from the public sphere.

"It is the first time in years that the Commission's work program — its legislative roadmap — does not contain any new social legislation," according to the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). Brussels' plan instead includes numerous initiatives for deregulation and militarisation, as has been demanded not only by the commission itself but also by national leaders such as Merz, Emmanuel Macron, Tusk, and Giorgia Meloni. "There is a growing chill wind coming from America towards Europe, which is that solutions for working people are no longer guaranteed in laws," argues ETUC general secretary Esther Lynch, formerly of ICTU.

[Read more here](#)

ICTU call to action on the Triple Lock

The ICTU Biennial Conference in Belfast has unanimously passed the following motion:



Conference calls on the ICTU Executive Council to:

1. Campaign for the continuation of the Triple Lock mechanism on the deployment of Irish military overseas, or for its reinstatement should it be removed.
2. Oppose any attempt to bring Ireland into any military alliance such as NATO, and any move to form a European Union military force.
3. Oppose the Irish Government's moves to increase military budgets as recommended by the European Union and campaign for reallocation of these budgets to address urgent social needs such as housing.
4. Consistently campaign to ensure that the Irish Government and the NI Executive parties, while recognising the restrictions of the Executive's remit, promote and support peaceful diplomatic solutions to all international conflicts.
5. Work with other organisations to promote peace, defend Irish neutrality including the Triple Lock, and oppose further militarisation.

[The full motion is here](#)

von der Leyen survives no- confidence vote



von der Leyen has survived a no - confidence vote in the EU Parliament. The motion was defeated by 360 votes to 175 in what was a widely expected result. Seven Irish MEPs supported von der Leyen: Fianna Fáil's Billy Kelleher, Cynthia Ní Mhurchú and Barry Cowen; and Fine Gael's Seán Kelly, Maria Walsh, Regina Doherty and Nina Carberry. Four Irish MEPs – Sinn Féin Lynn Boylan and Kathleen Funchion, Independent Ireland's Ciarán Mullooly and Luke 'Ming' Flanagan – supported the motion against von der Leyen. Two Irish MEPs, Labour's Aodhán O'Ríordáin and Fianna Fáil's Barry Andrews, abstained.

Setting a dangerous precedent for Irish democracy



Dismantling the Triple Lock is a matter of national interest yet the government is planning to do so with no meaningful public debate. Of the two parties in government, Fine Gael made no reference to the Triple Lock in its [2024 election manifesto](#) while Fianna Fáil committed to '[sensible reform](#)' of it. Though Tanaiste Simon Harris later [claimed](#) that removal of the Triple Lock 'was in my party's manifesto', it was not, and a review of the manifesto will attest to that fact. Opinion polls consistently show overwhelming support for Irish neutrality with the most recent Ireland Thinks opinion poll putting that support at [75%](#).

Moreover, the Triple Lock came about in the context of the Nice Treaty and commitments to it were reaffirmed during the Lisbon Treaty. That the government is seeking to amend legislation put in place on foot of a commitment to the people within the context of two treaty referenda sets a dangerous precedent for Irish democracy, particularly when the amendment seeks to permit precisely what the electorate would not tolerate – Irish troop participation in military structures that would endanger Irish neutrality. The government has no mandate to dismantle the Triple Lock and to do so would mark a low point for the democratic functioning of the Irish state.

This is an extract from the excellent submission by Niamh Ni Bhroin to the Committee on Defence and National Security. The full submission is here:



Niamh Ni
Bhriain_Submission ar

Pfizergate verdict – a further example of the lack of EU transparency



EUObserver reports that on the day of the Pfizergate verdict, the Commission [announced](#) it would "closely study" the ruling and send the plaintiff, a new decision on her request for the texts. But a month after the Pfizergate ruling, in which the General Court [chastised the Commission](#), for von der Leyen's lack of transparency about her texts with Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla; we are still waiting. This new decision must clearly explain what steps the Commission has taken to search for the texts, [according to the court ruling](#), and thus finally answer the question of whether they still exist.

But, the Commission is in no rush to respond. A spokesperson told Follow the Money that they did "not have a specific timeline" for replying to the Times. A separate [request](#) filed by the author on the day of the ruling is still pending, and the Commission has generously extended its own time limit for a reply.

So what's the point of the ruling, if we still don't know what happened to the texts? The judges of the Grand Chamber cannot order the Commission to release any document, and, to [their frustration](#), they were not even able to compel the Commission President to reveal what happened to them. That's EU transparency and EU justice for you!

Another nail in the coffin of Irish neutrality – were you asked?



Ireland will sign up to a major new EU military initiative that will allow member states to jointly procure military equipment as the bloc seeks to rapidly militarise. The EU regulation - which all member states must enact as written - known as Security Action for Europe (Safe), - part of €800 billion Rearm Europe - relaxes purchasing rules for military purchases and allows countries to work together to develop and acquire military capacities. The

Government says that becoming a member will allow Ireland to secure military equipment at a lower cost and faster pace – in some cases up to two years earlier than under existing procurement arrangements.

The Safe initiative makes €150 billion available to member states, in the form of low-interest, long-term loans, to rapidly increase military spending. The decision to sign up to the Safe regulation represents a significant step towards closer co-operation between Ireland and the EU on military issues and a further serious diminution of Irish neutrality. As might be expected, Taoiseach Micheál Martin said joint ‘defence’ procurement would have no impact on neutrality.

Ireland will use its membership of the plan to acquire artillery and air defence systems as well as replacing the Army’s fleet of armoured personnel carriers. Other projects include the purchase of artillery and drones. To qualify for Safe support, 65 per cent of the value of purchases must be from an EU country or drone producer; Ukraine.

It’s just another step on the road to an EU Army through standardisation of military equipment – also with NATO - and the Irish people are being sleepwalked into it without a mandate or public debate by Martin and co.

This militarisation frenzy sacrifices real security—hospitals, schools, and climate action—for a dangerous arms race. Cutting public services while fuelling conflict that only deepens inequality and climate collapse, enriching weapons manufacturers and fossil fuel giants at everyone else’s expense.

Our man soldiers on



‘EUNAVFOR ATALANTA is critical to ensuring maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean and the Red Sea, protecting merchant vessels transiting through the Area of Operations.’ The Operational Commander, Vice Admiral Ignacio Villanueva Serrano provided an operational update to General Seán Clancy, Chair of the EU Military Committee.

Security through Unity, Credibility through Capability – as the EUMC proclaims. We can all sleep safe in our beds as the EU expands its military reach under the guidance of Chairman Clancy.

The UN and EU Context of Ireland's Legislative Dilemma Regarding Outlawing Trade with Illegal Israeli Settlements



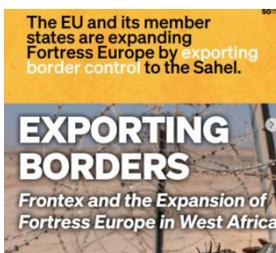
The UN and ICJ have clear directives: settlements are illegal, and states must end all trade with them. The EU's rhetoric lacks enforcement, enabling Israel's expansion. Ireland's diluted 2025 bill reflects submission to U.S. and EU pressures, but its diplomatic assertiveness—seen in backing South Africa's ICJ case—shows potential for resistance. By

realigning with the Non-Aligned Movement and amending its bill to include services, Ireland could transform symbolic gestures into tangible action, setting a precedent for Western nations. As the UN High Commissioner states, settlements "jeopardize any practical possibility of a contiguous Palestinian State"—Ireland's next steps will test its full commitment to international law over its current morally anaemic stance.

The UN consistently states that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) violate Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits an occupying power from transferring its civilian population into occupied territory. This position is reaffirmed in UN Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016), which declares settlements a "flagrant violation" with "no legal validity".

[Read more here](#)

Extending fortress Europe!



The EU's Frontex presence in Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal, [the focus countries of a new report](#), involves capacity building, information exchange, and potential direct engagement with state agencies. These activities receive scant legal, political, or journalistic scrutiny, despite posing serious risks to human rights.

Migrants in West Africa routinely suffer human rights violations including arbitrary arrest, detention and the forcible return of refugees or asylum seekers to a country where they are liable to be subjected to persecution. In Niger, the Sahara has been described as an "open sky cemetery" due to the number of people who die attempting to cross the desert.

EU pressure on West African countries to militarise and police their borders and curtail mobility is a driving factor in these deaths. EU support has also included funding for biometric ID systems, surveillance drones, wiretapping infrastructure, and phone-tracking technology. These tools have reportedly been used to target journalists, activists, and opposition groups.

People who are not migrants are also affected, as increased surveillance and border restrictions disrupt trade, livelihoods, and everyday cross-border movement. Local communities face shrinking civil liberties and economic hardship under a system geared toward controlling mobility.

EU – Israel association agreement review



Ahead of the review of the EU –Israel association agreement by EU foreign ministers next week, EU foreign affairs chief Kaja Kallas and Israeli foreign minister Gideon Sa'ar have agreed to let more aid into Gaza. The Israelis are going to throw to the EU some crumbs and these crumbs are going to be reversible. In a couple of weeks' time, once they've dissipated the energy around the suspension of the association agreement, they'll go back to the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation - an American organisation (GHF) whose aid centres have seen numerous killings by the IDF.

The EU Foreign Affairs Council meeting will weigh a menu of options for how to respond — in a document prepared by the European External Action Service that has been seen by POLITICO. “Full suspension” is one option, as is a “partial suspension” that would cut off dialogue between Brussels and Netanyahu’s government. Both would need unanimous agreement by the EU27 — so it’s safe to assume they’re not realistic.

Suspending just the trade element of the deal, which could make it harder for Israeli products to enter the EU market, would only require a qualified majority. Individual capitals could take measures such as banning products from the occupied West Bank if the EU27 don’t unanimously agree. This would bolster those pursuing the Occupied Territories Bill but would not address the ‘services’ issue. It is likely that this soft option be adopted by the EU - if there is any agreement

Meanwhile, a Palestinian child is killed or maimed every sixteen minutes

And now a bit of (good) late news



The Social Democrats have unanimously decided that its Oireachtas members will nominate Catherine Connolly for President. Catherine will formally declare her candidacy next week.

It said in a statement that the Independent TD for Galway West has been a "tireless advocate for progressive causes and we believe she would make an excellent President". They said the decision reflects the "strong support throughout the Social Democrats for nominating Catherine Connolly". She also has the support of People before Profit and Solidarity

Catherine has been a patron of the Peoples Movement since its inception and we wish her success while supporting her in every way we can. She is a person of integrity and a tireless advocate for the oppressed. Catherine has been critical of the EU’s inaction on Gaza as well as opposing militarisation and the abolition of the Triple Lock. We can look forward to an invigorating campaign.

COPENHAGEN – The EU’s push to boost military expenditure could undermine the bloc’s financial stability unless EU countries curb soaring deficit and debt levels, according to Denmark’s economy minister.

Stephanie Lose told Euractiv that Europe must ramp up defence spending “very quickly” to deter Russia’s growing military threat, but warned this outlay may pose an additional “risk” to the bloc’s economy, which is already reeling from the twin impact of [US tariffs](#) and fierce [Chinese competition](#).

“At the same time as there is this unrest in the economies across the world, [we] need to boost defence spending very quickly,” said Lose, whose country took over the rotating Council presidency from Poland earlier this month.

“That is a risk factor for our economies, because if we don’t combine that with wise decisions on ways to a more sustainable path for public finances, then I guess it will be a problem in terms of increased debt levels and unsustainable finances,” she added.

Lose’s comments come after [NATO members](#) last month pledged to increase military spending to 3.5% of annual GDP by 2035, almost double the US-led alliance’s previous 2% target.

The 32-member military bloc – which includes 23 of the EU’s 27 member states – also agreed to allocate an additional 1.5% of total output to security-related infrastructure. [Spain](#), however, secured an opt-out allowing it to spend just 2.1% in total on defence.

Sixteen EU countries – including Denmark – have also heeded the European Commission’s recent call to activate the “national escape clause,” a key component of President Ursula von der Leyen’s €800 billion [“ReArm Europe”](#) plan to ward off Moscow’s threat to the continent.

Activating the clause allows capitals to spend an additional 1.5% on defence without contravening the bloc’s fiscal rules, which limit member states’ deficits to 3%.

However, France, Italy, and Spain – the EU’s second, third, and fourth-largest economies – have refrained from invoking the clause amid concerns about their already high budget deficits.

France and Italy are also among nine EU countries currently subject to a so-called “[excessive deficit procedure](#),” or formal reprimand, by the Commission for breaching the bloc’s 3% fiscal threshold.

Lose, who will attend her first meeting of European finance ministers as Council chair on Monday, said she couldn’t “judge” France, Italy, and Spain’s decisions not to activate the clause, as this depends on their underlying motivations.

“On one side, it’s good if you adhere to sound public finances: so if it means that they’re exploring ways to fulfil the 3.5% NATO goal without being on an unsustainable path to a higher extent than they already are, then that’s, of course, great news,” she said.

“[But] if it symbolises that there won’t be any room at all to boost defence spending, then it’s, of course, a problem,” she adde