



PEOPLE'S NEWS

News Digest of the People's Movement

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The Neutrality Files



In Ireland, we are proud of our neutrality. It's more than policy — it's our promise to each other and to the world. Neutrality means we choose peace over war, independence over obedience to

bodies like NATO and European army generals.

[The Neutrality Files](#) brings together detailed research and investigations into attempts by the arms industry, NATO states, and certain politicians to undermine and ultimately destroy our neutrality.

Additional volumes will be published over the coming weeks.



The Triple Lock - an Appeal from the People's Movement



The historic election of Catherine Connolly as President of Ireland is more than a political victory; it is a powerful mandate for a politics of principle, integrity, and unwavering commitment to the common good. This achievement, forged through the collaboration of diverse parties and communities, demonstrates the strength we wield when we unite behind a shared vision.

Now, we must channel this collective power to face an immediate and profound threat to a cornerstone of Irish sovereignty: the Government's plan to abolish the Triple Lock. Every party and individual who made this victory possible must re-commit themselves to a vigorous, inclusive, and unyielding campaign in defence of this fundamental mechanism.

[Read more here](#)

Comhghairdeas le Catherine Connolly



Táimid ar aon intinn leis an gcuid is mó de mhuintir na hÉireann agus ár gcomhghairdeas á gcur in iúl againn do Chatherine ar a ceapadh mar Uachtarán na hÉireann. Ba chóir go spreagfadh a tiomantas chun poblacht nua a chur chun cinn misneach ionainn. Ba phátrún luath í Catherine ar nGluaiseacht an Phobail agus thacaigh sí go maith linn thar na blianta, agus gabhaimid buíochas léi as an tacaíocht sin.



Congratulations to Catherine Connolly

We join the majority of Irish people in extending our congratulations to Catherine on her inauguration as President of Ireland. Her undertaking to promote a new republic should give us heart. Catherine was an early patron of the Peoples Movement and a good supporter over the years and we thank her for that support.

PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT
GLUAISEACHT AN PHOBAIL



No to EU Militarisation and an EU Army!

Neutrality is our best defence.

Keep the Triple Lock!

The People's Movement will hold its monthly protest on

Wednesday, 19th November at 1:00pm

Outside Dáil Eireann, Kildare St.

Please try to get along - it is important!

Placards and banners will be provided.

Harris and the Triple Lock



The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence has said that he does not believe a referendum is necessary to change the Triple Lock. The Government has committed to the issue of changing the Triple Lock, by removing the requirement of the support of the UN Security Council to deploy more than 12 Irish peacekeeping troops overseas. Harris said: "I don't believe we run back to the Irish people with a referendum on every piece of legislation ... this is not an attempt to change Ireland's position on military neutrality, it is an issue to change how we dispatch peacekeeping troops overseas."

"In parallel to removing the UN mandate requirement, text will be included in [the proposed] bill, which will require the mandate of future operations be consistent with and adhere to the principles of the UN Charter and international law," and he was "determined to bring forward legislation in this area". He expected to have the bill ready "within this year". International law has been trampled on and obviously, Mr Harris et al will decide whether the UN principles are being adhered to.

In the recent Presidential Election one candidate supported the Triple Lock, the other candidate opposed it. The candidate who defended the Triple Lock got 63% of the vote."

Beware of EUrospeak



EU bureaucrats appear almost constitutionally incapable of speaking without cycling through an interminable carousel of vacuous EUrospeak. “We must simplify companies’ regulatory burden to boost our competitiveness and strengthen our economic resilience,” is a sentence that some EU Commissioner will say soon. It means pushing back on labour protections and regulations such as food safety, etc to increase profits.

For instance, calls to improve the EU’s “[competitiveness](#)” – a term drawn from business “science” that has been the subject of [numerous declarations](#), a [€400 billion proposal](#), a 400-page report, and a “[compass](#)” -a 20-page report- over the past year – were made more than thirty years ago by former European Commission chief [Jacques Delors](#).

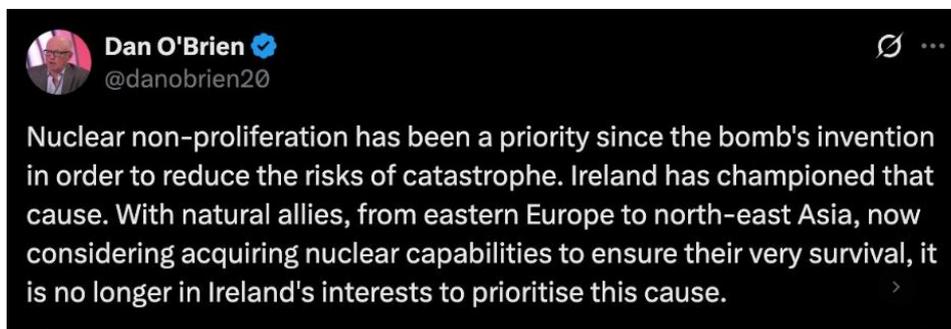
[Read more here](#)

More EU war preparations and funding for arms manufacturers



The European Council and EU Parliament [have agreed](#) to extend EU financial support within [Horizon Europe](#) [the EU’s key funding programme for research and innovation] to dual-use and military-related companies, while largely maintaining the eligibility rules already present in EU instruments such as [ReArm Europe](#) and [EDIP](#) ([‘European Defence Programme’](#)). The indicative funding amount for Horizon Europe for the period 2021-2027 is EUR 93.5 billion.

Numerous Irish companies and universities, many of them dual use researchers or manufacturers could now draw down funding. In addition, co-legislators agreed to associate Ukraine to the European Defence Fund, thus creating new possibilities for Ukrainian entities to join in EU collaborative military research and development activities in the future, and facilitating their gradual integration into the EU military - industrial base.



Dan O'Brien is the irresponsible Chief Economist of the Institute of International and European Affairs which receives [EU funding](#), while it’s estimated that [over 50% of its income](#) comes from the Irish Exchequer through various channels.

MEPs seek court test for Mercosur



A cross-party group of MEPs is mounting a legal challenge to the EU-Mercosur trade deal before its expected signature in Brazil. The MEPs will table a motion for a resolution, [obtained](#) by Euractiv, to be voted on at the Parliament's plenary session of 24 November, seeks an opinion from the EU's top court on whether the pact breaches the EU's treaties – a move that could stall ratification for years.

The effort, expected to win backing from sceptics across party lines and member states long opposed to the deal like France and Ireland, reflects mounting unease over the agreement's "rebalancing," which could restrict the EU's [ability to introduce new environmental or health rules](#). Meanwhile, von der Leyen is due to fly to Brazil for a formal Mercosur signing ceremony on Dec. 20. Let's hope her plans are scuppered, though the Farmers Journal [thinks it's a done deal](#).

'Great to see that we're not left out when it comes to war



On November 19, the EU Commission will present a package of proposals that will transform EU logistics into a real military artery. The goal is to ensure the immediate transfer of weapons and personnel in the event of a perceived threat. The plan includes coordinating the use of trucks, rail platforms, ferries and all transport routes capable of transporting tanks and artillery.

To do this, border procedures will be simplified and mechanisms will be synchronised with NATO so that allied troops can move without delay. For the first time, the Commission is taking on a coordinating role in military logistics - an area that was previously the exclusive competence of national governments. You can see on the map that we were not forgotten. This would certainly make us a target in any war and ignores our neutrality.

You couldn't make it up



The Ex-EU Commissioner overseeing the freezing of Russian assets has been charged with money laundering. Belgian Didier Reynders, who in the EU Commission supervised the freezing of Russian assets worth billions of euros, has been officially charged with money laundering. The judge did not believe his story about 'selling paintings' and lottery winnings: over 10 years, the former EU Commissioner deposited 700,000 euros in cash into a bank and cycled another 200,000 euros through the lottery. The case has been ongoing since 2023: searches, interrogations, and now he faces up to 5 years in prison. Irony - the main anti-money laundering fighter is now under investigation himself. Meanwhile, Angelika Niebler, co-head of the powerful center-right German delegation in the European Parliament, is being investigated for misusing EU funds. She says the allegations by the European Public Prosecutor are "unfounded." The legal affairs committee is studying whether to lift her immunity.

[The EU army of armies](#)



At the end of October, the EU Military Rapid Deployment Capacity Coordination Conference (RDC3) took place in Brussels. This event was convened to solidify member states' commitments under the EU Military Rapid Response Concept. Delegates representing Member States reaffirmed their contributions through 2031, confirming their readiness in contributing to the military strategic reserve of the EU which was agreed in March and became operational in May this year. It is comprised of 5,000 troops to be deployed anywhere in the world

Secretary, Lt Col Schlegel, emphasised the importance of predictability in the provision of Rapid Response Forces, stating, "The commitments and affirmed offers made during this conference demonstrate Member States resolve to uphold common security measures, embrace structural solutions for force planning, and maintain readiness without compromising national sovereignty," – Eurospeak! Ireland already contributes to the Military Rapid Deployment Capacity by committing a company of 100-120 troops to standby to breach neutrality and the Triple Lock, as well as participating in large-scale exercises to enhance interoperability and crisis response coordination. Was there anything about this Conference in the Irish media – 'anything from the government?

A quick look at the Russian threat



There was a lot of talk during the Presidential campaign about the threat posed by Russia. However, according to NATO Sec. Gen. Mark Rutte, the NATO aggregate economy is 25 times bigger than the Russian economy. NATO's military is infinitely superior to the Russians.

"When it comes to our air force, the Russians cannot even stand in the shadow with these MiG-31s, or whatever they call them with their poorly trained pilots." The economy of the 33 States in NATO is 25 times bigger than one country, Russia. That's 33 States to one. So apparently, Russia is so weak but about to invade Europe/NATO any moment now. Hear it from Rutte himself [here](#). [Here](#) he excoriates the Russian navy. [According to SIPRI](#), military spending will reach 7.2% of GDP this year while [inflation](#) stood at 8.2% last month with interest rates – reduced! – to 16%. [Yet, the EU prepares for war by 2030](#), identifying Russia as the enemy.

So, is EU militarisation in the face of an implied Russian threat simply a contrived justification for massive military spending and bumper profits for the arms manufacturers? It's a question we must urgently answer because we'll be paying!

Big Sister is watching you



The *Financial Times* has reported that the EU Commission has begun setting up a new intelligence body under Ursula von der Leyen, in an attempt to 'improve' the use of information gathered by national spy agencies. The unit, to be formed inside the commission's secretariat-general, plans to hire officials from across the EU's intelligence community and collate intelligence for joint purposes. One wonders what's wrong with Interpol.

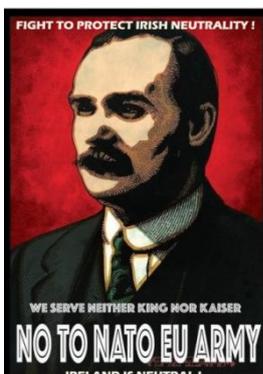
[German rearmament](#) – what could possibly go wrong?



Readers will recall the furore during the Presidential election campaign when Catherine Connolly expressed concern regarding German rearmament, being accused of attacking our partners etc. Below are two articles from Politico a prestigious pro - EU publication owned by Axel Springer whose Chief Executive said that staff would need to adhere to Axel Springer's principles, including support for a united Europe and Israel's right to exist.

And for 'balance': In Germany Ole Nymoen has become public enemy number one for supporters of the government's rearmament campaign. He spoke to *Jacobin*, a social democratic publication, about his new book against militarisation and on the need for a renewed peace movement. You can make up your own mind regarding the validity of Connolly's concerns. (*John Hartfield's 1932 montage 'Never again'*).

Why Ireland Must Resist the Drift to War



A dangerous and costly fantasy is taking hold in Brussels, fuelled by a strategic lie that threatens to drag the entire European Union, including neutral Ireland, into a vortex of unnecessary militarisation. The burgeoning EU armaments programme, framed as a vital response to an imminent Russian threat, is not a path to security but a descent into geopolitical madness. This narrative, heavily promoted by politicians with uncomfortably close ties to the arms industry, claims Vladimir Putin is on the verge of attacking NATO. This is a fabrication, one that directly contradicts the sober assessment of the 18 united US intelligence agencies.

Instead of pouring billions into weapons, the German government and its EU partners should finally become diplomatically active. For Ireland, the choice is clear: to stand for reason, diplomacy, and its cherished neutrality, or to be swept along in a tide of militaristic madness that serves no one but the arms dealers.

[Read more here](#)

Germany moves towards conscription



A new German government plan mandates that all men over 18 register for potential military service starting January 1, 2026, with a medical screening and a compulsory questionnaire on their willingness to serve. Around 700,000 young people born in 2008 or earlier will be contacted for registration and screening. Women will also receive a letter but are not required to respond. If volunteer numbers fall short of NATO commitments, compulsory service will be reintroduced through a separate law, making military service mandatory for all men in the future.

The EU wants to militarise space

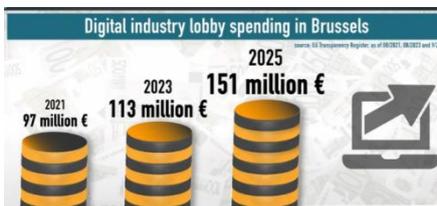


The Nov. 26-27 meeting of the [European Space Agency's](#) (ESA) Council of Ministers is shaping up to be a watershed moment, with senior space officials from the 23 member states, including Ireland, set to vote on a package of projects explicitly designed to bolster the EU's military capabilities. Since its founding in 1975 ESA has assiduously avoided any connection to military space activities, insisting on a strictly civil mission. ESA Director Aschbacher's proposal is to allocate €1 billion for a basket of preliminary activities supporting a fledgling EU initiative to develop a constellation of electro-optical and radar [intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance \(ISR\)](#) satellites.

Called the European Resilience from Space (ERS) program, Aschbacher's proposed initiative would represent initial activities to support the Earth Observation Governmental Service (EOGS), [according to](#) ESA following the ERS conference. The EOGS is being proposed for funding by the EU Commission. The Council will vote at its Dec. meeting on whether to include the plan as part of its three-year budget.

The project is expected to be approved, especially given that [on Oct. 23](#) the EU Council approved a new five-year plan for building up military capabilities, called Preserving Peace — Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030, that includes a "[European Space Shield](#)" among its four pillars. The total value of the projects has been €330 million.

The power of the digital lobby



The digital industry has increased its EU lobbying spending to a record level. It now spends €151 million annually on lobbying in the EU – an increase of 33.6% since 2023 and 55.6% since 2021. This is the highest lobbying budget ever recorded for the technology sector in Brussels. The ten companies with the highest lobbying expenditures are responsible for 48 million euros – that's a third of the total lobbying spending in the digital sector. Meta leads the pack with ten million euros.

The number of digital lobbyists has risen from 699 to 890 full-time equivalents (FTE). This means there are now more tech lobbyists than Members of the European Parliament. 437 of them hold a lobbyist's pass – granting them virtually unrestricted access to Parliament. Big Tech companies held an average of three lobbying meetings per day in the first half of 2025 – a clear indication of their privileged access to EU decision-makers.



A bad move on all fronts



Right – wing group leader Jordan Bardella, head of France’s National Rally and president of the Patriots for Europe group in the EU Parliament claimed victory after the center-right European People’s Party, of which Fine Gael is a member, joined forces with his Patriots for Europe group to pass cuts to a major regulation package.

The two important corporate reporting and due diligence laws are known by their cumbersome acronyms: CSRD and CSDDD. The CSRD requires companies to report on their environmental and social impacts, while the CSDDD obliges them to identify, prevent, and address human rights and environmental harms in their own operations and supply chains. It would also have allowed victims workers or communities harmed by a company’s activities or by those of its suppliers to sue that company in an EU court if it failed to take proper due diligence measures to prevent such harm

The Patriots’ lead negotiator called it a “historic victory”. The move signalled the end of the so-called *cordon sanitaire*, the informal pact between Europe’s centrist forces — the EPP, the Socialists and Democrats, the liberals of Renew, and the Greens — to keep the right - wing out of decision-making.

It also opens up a new era where the EPP — von der Leyen’s political family and the largest political grouping — will join with whatever political forces it needs to achieve its aims. This could only be the start of what could be an enduring deregulation alliance with the Right.

The Right’s breakthrough in the Parliament reflects its sweeping advances in national politics across the continent. Right - wing political parties now lead national opinion polls in France, the U.K. and Germany, among others. Despite the breach of trust among coalition partners, unlike in national parliaments, EU rules don't allow for snap elections, meaning all parties are stuck until the next EU election in 2029.

