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An EU Army of armies



EU countries should weigh whether to set up a combined military force [according EU defence Commissioner Kubilius](#) who floated creating a "powerful, standing 'European military force' of 100,000 troops. How will we replace the 100,000-strong American standing military force, which is the back-bone military force in Europe?" he asked.

In his speech Kubilius also advocated for the creation of a "European Security Council" of key powers -- including potentially Britain -- that could help the continent take decisions over its own defence quicker. "The European Security Council could be composed of key permanent members, along with several rotational members," he said. "In total, around 10-12 members, with the task to discuss the most important issues related to defence." Readers will have noticed that calls for such an arrangement have increased. Last month, Kubilius set up a group of political elder statesmen and women to consider the future of European defence.

Increased EU secrecy planned



A new EU draft law could fundamentally curtail public access to documents across the European Union. First tabled by the European Commission in 2022, the proposed Information Security Regulation (Infosec) is now making its way through the European Parliament and the Council. While the Commission frames the proposal as a necessary response to growing "hybrid threats" — including espionage, cyberattacks and disinformation — critics warn it risks becoming the most significant rollback of transparency in the EU's history.

At the heart of the controversy is the regulation's sweeping scope. Infosec would establish a uniform security classification system across EU institutions, bodies and agencies, covering not only sensitive defence or foreign policy material but potentially vast swathes of routine administrative documents.

[Read more here](#)

Our next protest against EU militarisation and for the Triple Lock

PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT
GLUISEACHT AN PHOBAIL

Protest against EU Militarisation

Wednesday 21st January at 1:00pm
Dáil Eireann, Kildare St

Keep the Triple Lock!

No to an EU Army!

Active neutrality—our best defence!



You reap what you sow



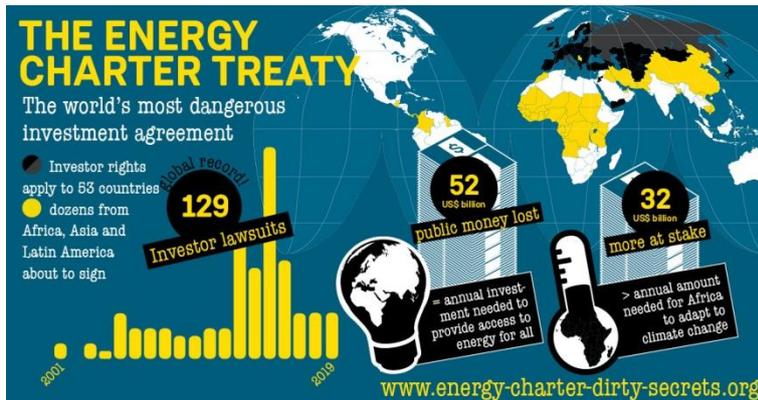
Thousands of Irish farmers have participated in a rolling protest against the EU-Mercosur deal approved by the European Council. The deal with Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay still needs to be approved by the EU Parliament. The Government, insisting that negotiations are not finalised, voted against the deal in its current form along with France, Poland, Austria and Hungary, while Belgium abstained. The Irish "no" was mainly of domestic political value. The government were seeking to respond to opposition on the issue and ongoing protests from farmers.

The IFA and Irish beef farmers are concerned that the deal could threaten their exports to the EU due to the introduction of lower-cost Brazilian beef which they claim will not meet EU standards.

But because we accepted the Lisbon Treaty, encouraged by the IFA amongst others, Ireland lost its right to veto EU trade agreements. IFA is now demanding a vote in national parliaments on the deal, having actively campaigned to get rid of the requirement for such a vote. Of course there should be a debate and vote in the Dáil but that would be to no avail. The IFA, purporting to represent farmer's interests, was instrumental in getting us into this situation and no amount of blustering on their part can disguise that fact.

[Read more here](#)

The Energy Charter Treaty strikes Ireland



A major oil and gas company has said it is moving forward with a claim for \$100 million in compensation from Ireland under the controversial Energy Charter Treaty (ECT). The dispute dates back to an application for a lease undertaking submitted in April 2021 as a follow-on authorisation to an

exploration licence.

The Irish government last year announced it would withdraw from the ECT — the treaty being widely criticised by climate justice campaigners — following similar decisions by other states. However, former Housing Minister and now Climate Minister Darragh O'Brien last week confirmed in the Dáil that Ireland had not yet completed the process of withdrawal.

[Read more here](#)

Coalition of the Willing - puts some flesh on the bones



[The Paris Declaration](#), signed by Minister McEntee on Ireland's behalf commits us to as yet unspecified involvement in providing [security guarantees for Ukraine](#) in the event of a cessation of hostilities. The Declaration was published by The Coalition of the Willing, an ad hoc alliance of states led by Britain and France that is in the process of assembling a military force to be inserted into Ukraine and of which Ireland is a member.

Simon Harris made clear last September that: "If there is a peace agreement, Ireland, as a member of the Coalition of the Willing, will want to assist. "You could see a scenario where if there was a peace agreement, and if part of that peace agreement resulted in peacekeepers being deployed, Ireland could, at that stage, consider it, and certainly we're very willing to do that." Must question where the legitimacy for such a deployment rests and under whose auspices it would operate.

[Read more here](#)

The Brussels Alibi: How Micheál Martin Exploits EU Integration to Evade Domestic Accountability



The defining feature of Micheál Martin's tenure is not leadership but delegation—the systematic offloading of Irish sovereignty and difficult political choices to the opaque committee rooms of Brussels. His legacy is one of a Taoiseach who found in the EU project a perfect alibi: a means to augment his personal stature on a continental stage while insulating himself from the consequences of

failure at home. The collapse of the Jim Gavin presidential candidacy was not a mere mishap; it was a symptom of a political psychology wholly oriented towards Brussels, where the approval of the likes of Ursula von der Leyen matters more than the trust of the Irish people.

[Read more here](#)

What is the connection between CETA and the Arbitration (Amendment) Bill 2025?



At the end of 2025, the Irish Government tabled the Arbitration (Amendment) Bill 2025 with the stated purpose to “enable effect to be given in the State to certain international agreements concerned with the protection of investment; and to provide for related matters”.

This Bill specifically refers to EU trade agreements with Canada (CETA) and Chile and was produced as a response to the Supreme Court judgement, in the case of Patrick Costello v. Government of Ireland where the court held that ratification of CETA would be unconstitutional under the law as it stood. The court also found that if certain amendments were made to the Arbitration Act 2010, it could then be ratified without breaching the Constitution.

And now, the government has obligingly provided those amendments, putting the state at risk of huge claims. The state could now be sued in a parallel legal system, by property investors or vulture funds. Wealth management companies could sue on the basis that they had invested in Irish property and the Government's actions might infringe on their ability to make profits in the future while socially desirable measures implemented in the public interest that that might impact on the expected profits of a foreign entity could result in a huge claim in the ‘court’.

[Read more here](#)

Militarising Foreign Direct Investment: Geopolitical Ecology, Dependency, and Ireland's Twin Transition



Long a site of dependency within the Atlantic economy, Ireland is fast becoming a strategic, infrastructural frontier linking the US and Europe in the context of emerging geopolitical competition over the supply chains and resources required for technological development, and the EU's 'twin transition.' [This paper by Patrick Bresnihan et al](#) explores how infrastructural development across a number of spheres—data centres, transatlantic subsea cables and fossil fuel pipelines, offshore wind, and critical mineral extraction—is becoming increasingly securitised.

Simultaneously, contestation over Irish neutrality has intensified as an internal comprador class and external state actors push Ireland to geopolitically align itself more closely with NATO and the EU military bloc. We contend that these developments amount to a militarisation of Ireland's FDI-based economy, pursued by the state to secure Ireland's semi-peripheral position within the capitalist world system.

Neither the Government nor EU condemn US actions in Venezuela

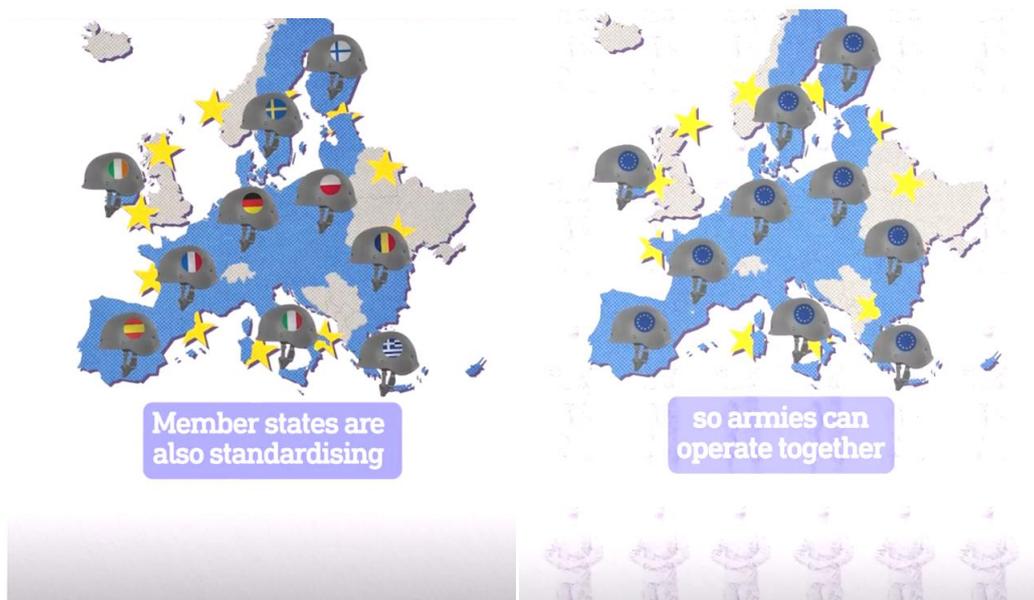


After their complicit silence on Israel's war crimes in Gaza and their tacit acceptance of the US/Israel attack on Iran, the EU has failed to condemn the US's military operation to bring about regime change in Venezuela. With few notable exceptions – such as Spain, the Netherlands and Norway – most European leaders have, at best, [fudged their response](#). Spain, a NATO member, has acted without the EU, [condemning the US attack](#) alongside a group of Latin American countries and why couldn't 'neutral' Ireland do likewise? EU governments seem unable to utter in the same breath that, although they may not have favoured Nicolás Maduro, the US attack to topple him is a gross violation of international law. Even the Irish Times [seemed taken aback](#).

Taoiseach Micheál Martin also declined to criticise the United States for its abduction while [the statement](#) from the Department of Foreign Affairs echoes [that of the EU Commission](#). But then, we were a signatory of the latter which accepts the reasons proposed by the US for its actions. It is certainly supportive of the continued shredding of international law and further weakens the already fading authority of the UN while placing us ever more clearly on the side of a US that has just engaged in unprovoked act of imperialist aggression against a sovereign state. Hardly the position of a neutral!



From the horse's mouth – 'a military powerhouse.'



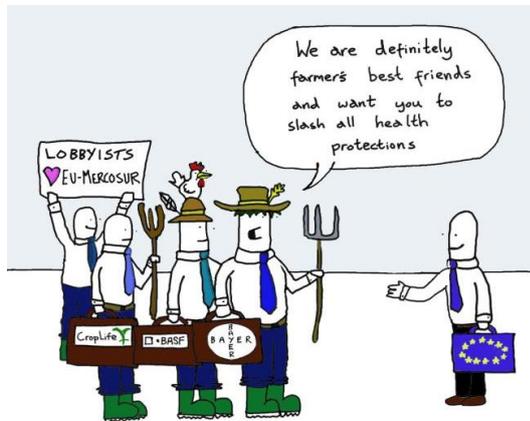
[An informative short video from pro-EU EURONEWS](#)

A military powerhouse in the making – The EU is working to become a “military powerhouse”, Ursula von der Leyen said last week.

However, she refused to confirm that Greenland is covered by the EU’s mutual defence clause, [Article 42.7](#) of the EU Treaty. [Here is a legal opinion](#). She added that the EU intends to split the 90 billion euro financial support approved for Ukraine into one third for its general budget and two thirds for military supplies. The moot point here is whether Ireland, which has signed up to the loan, will pay into the general pool or restrict payments to the general budget? If the former, it would certainly render us technically at war with Russia. We have to stump up the first instalment by April, so it’s important to find out. The following day, von der Leyen announced that she’d tasked the Cypriot presidency with getting an EU security strategy over the line during the next six months. The next presidency falls to Ireland in July and undoubtedly, we’ll inherit the formulation of the strategy.



Pesticide lobby using farmer protests as cover in its attack on EU health regulations



The pesticide lobby is opportunistically planning to use farmers' protests, in order to create political momentum to slash EU safety rules for its products. But the free trade deal EU-Mercosur that is the focus of the farmers' ire, shows their interests and the lobbyists do not align.

According to Leonardo van den Berg, committee member of European farmer's organisation European Coordination of La Via Campesina (ECVC), "the pesticide industry is

abusing misleading studies and farmers' protests to pretend it speaks for farmers. It doesn't. Our problems will not be solved by deregulating pesticides — reducing their use is part of the solution. But farmers cannot do this alone: we need real support to transition to agro - ecology. What farmers need is not more chemicals, but fair prices, an end to the EU–Mercosur trade deal, and strong market regulation."

The Corporate Europe Observatory [report is here](#)

Forever chemicals do not go away



The evidence is mounting about the problems caused by [PFAS](#) pollution, which is [linked](#) to kidney and testicular cancer, thyroid disease, liver damage, and hormone disruption. Young children, people who are pregnant and older people are especially at risk.

Recent stories have revealed PFAS contamination of our morning [breakfast cereal](#), and that piece of [fruit](#). The results of some individual studies, for instance on [plastics in human brains](#), have been questioned by scientific peer reviews, but the broader findings remain unchallenged.

Currently, a wave of [deregulation](#) is sweeping Brussels, diluting existing laws to protect health, the environment, and workers' rights, while industry lobbies proposing [wish-lists](#) of rules which they would like to see dismantled. And the proposed PFAS ban is at risk or will be substantially cut-back. The EU Commission continues to [emphasise](#) its commitment to tackling PFAS, its language around the scope of the proposed ban often emphasises 'consumer uses' such as cosmetics and waterproof clothing. This focus is a beginning, but could allow countless other, industrial sources of PFAS contamination to continue.

[Read more here](#)

EU policy sparks arms manufacturing bonanza



With Europe spending record amounts on defense in 2025 on everything from ammunition to battle tanks, air defences and naval ships, industry winners included Germany's Rheinmetall, Sweden's Saab and the Britain's BAE Systems. The big winners were Sweden's Saab, which raised its outlook for 2025 sales to grow between 20% and 24%. Meanwhile

Germany's Rheinmetall's military business sales rose 28% in the first nine months of 2025. Shareholders had a bonanza, but that's what it's all about!

[The EU's military procurement](#) plans took shape in 2025 with publication of the bloc's first defense white paper in March and adoption of a €150 billion loan program for joint defense procurement by member states under the ReArm Europe plan, tying EU defense policy to major fiscal instruments. Other milestones included political agreement on the European Defence Industry Programme instrument and adoption of the Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030 in October.

Our fisheries sold out again!



At the end of December 2025, the Irish state approved a new fisheries agreement with the EU Fisheries Council that is set to seriously damage Ireland's fishing industry and the coastal communities that depend on it. The deal is projected to cause losses of at least €94 million in 2026, with wider economic impacts potentially reaching €200 million. A cut of 57,000 tonnes to Ireland's fishing quota puts more than 2,300 jobs at immediate risk and threatens the viability of towns such as Killybegs, and Howth.

[Read more here](#)

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Irish Neutrality



In the last weeks of 2025, several major Irish lobby groups, consultancies, and think-tanks released reports making a business case for increased defence and security spending, including Ibec and a joint report from IIEA/Deloitte. Why are business groups intervening in debates about Ireland's defence and security policies? And why now?

At one level, some are simply tracking which way the wind is blowing and seeking opportunities for profitable investment as the State reorients its foreign and defence policies. However, something more fundamental is at work here, relating to Ireland's economic model and its geopolitical position between the US and the EU. The key factor is foreign direct investment (FDI).

[Read the article here](#)

