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“Mutual defence is not optional” – unanimity must go!



Here we have unelected EU President Ursula von der Leyen openly pushing to scrap the EU's unanimity rule, the very safeguard that protects national sovereignty. “To act faster, the EU must abandon unanimity,” she says. In other words: efficiency for the big powers over democracy for all.

Unanimity isn't some bureaucratic inconvenience; it's the last line of defense for smaller nations against domination by the bloc's biggest powers. Strip away veto rights, and the EU stops being a union of sovereign states. It becomes a centralised power structure where Berlin and Paris call the shots and everyone else falls in line. Remove unanimity, and you remove equality. At that point, the EU ceases to be a partnership, if it hasn't done so long ago. It will simply become a hierarchy. What does our government have to say about this – nothing! You can watch her [here](#).

The government keeps us in the dark regarding EU legislation



A special Oireachtas committee established to scrutinise EU legislation has not received a single draft law from any government department—an omission described as deeply concerning for Irish sovereignty and democracy. Cathairleacht of the Seanad, Mark Daly, criticised the government's failure to fulfil its commitments, noting that despite assurances from the Taoiseach, no EU directives have been provided for review. This failure contradicts promises that senators would see draft laws at least six months before they become Irish legislation.

With approximately 80% of Irish law derived from EU regulations or directives, Daly highlighted that this lack of scrutiny leaves significant portions of legislation effectively rubber-stamped into Irish law. Although Micheál Martin pledged that Statutory Instruments and crucial documents would be circulated well in advance, this has not happened. These Statutory Instruments are the means of turning EU legislation into Irish law. While the Oireachtas debates around 50 domestic bills each year, as many as 200 EU-related pieces pass without oversight.

When Committees of the Oireachtas are kept in the dark, ordinary citizens stand little chance of understanding or influencing the laws that govern them. It's just another example of the government's slavish adherence to Brussels and like the EU, transparency and democracy.

The government opens the gate to NATO - under British leadership



The government is seeking closer maritime co-operation with Britain and other NATO countries. The first [national maritime security strategy](#) outlines plans that defence minister McEntee said could entail seeking naval assistance from Britain and France

during Ireland's EU presidency that starts on July 1.

The strategy said Ireland would in the second quarter of this year "commence an agreement" with the NATO countries in the [Joint Expeditionary Force \(JEF\)](#) "to participate in appropriate activities". McEntee said the scope would involve "looking at training, looking at how we can identify and manage specific and certain types of risks in our maritime domain ... we are looking at ways in which we can co-operate more in these types of partnerships".



This process has neither the approval nor support of the electorate. On the contrary, popular support for neutrality stood at seventy percent in a recent Sindo poll. Even by the standards of Micheál Martin's recent definition of 'military neutrality' in reply to Mairead Farrell TD, this can only be considered a betrayal of the trust of the electorate, especially when taken in the context of the planned

abandonment of the Triple Lock.

[Read more here](#)

Is the EU on the road to becoming a nuclear power?



Emmanuel Macron has unveiled [a major overhaul](#) of France's nuclear doctrine, opening elements of its deterrence strategy to EU allies – from joint exercises to deploying strategic air assets. He says the deterrent element needs to be "strengthened," and brought "forward" in a more preventative way, and considered in the EU context.

Seven EU member states and nuclear - armed Britain have [signed on](#). France will also expand its nuclear arsenal, currently estimated at about 300 warheads, though the exact increase remains undisclosed.

More perks for MEPs?



Five senior MEPs have met privately behind closed doors to begin discussions on potential changes to lawmakers' benefits, including easier access to the €350 daily allowance and higher travel reimbursements. The rules had been tightened following the 2022 Qatargate scandal, but MEPs are now considering greater flexibility. Proposed amendments to the Members' Statute include increasing by about 25% the kilometres eligible for petrol reimbursements per trip. Other options under review, with decisions expected by summer, could also adjust the number of hours MEPs must spend in Parliament to qualify for the daily allowance.

Fraud in the EU



The EU's post-Covid recovery fund could have been defrauded by more than €5 billion, through the [Recovery and Resilience Fund](#) according to the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) annual [report](#).

Customs and VAT fraud are responsible for the most serious estimated damage in the EU. They caused an estimated €45 billion in losses to EU and national budgets in 2025, according to EPPO's report.

They're after your nest egg!



On the heels of a summit where EU leaders embraced the idea of a two-speed EU, finance ministers from the bloc's six biggest economies have met to put the concept into action — starting with a unified capital market. France, Germany, Poland, Italy, Spain and Netherlands use [The "E6"](#) as a format for their finance ministers meetings. Starting with the [Capital Markets Union \(CMU\)](#); integrating the EU's financial markets would make it easier to channel trillions of euros of private savings into the [bloc's investment priorities](#) – currently mainly military.

"If we're being held back by 15 or 20 of Europe's smaller countries, maybe the big ones should move forward together to create something that works for us and creates a sense of inevitability for the rest," commented an EU diplomat. Finance Minister Harris said. "I would much rather see a structure where countries come together on issues where they share a common view rather than the entry to the club being based on your size exclusively". So, Harris is not against break-away groups – coalitions of the willing!

Danny McCoy Chief Executive of Ibec in reference to The E6 warns that; "The centralising of activity and power towards the centre of Europe and away from the periphery, such as Ireland, is a key development we must be vigilant about". But Ibec is leaving it to late having been an uncritical cheerleader for EU austerity for so long.

EUMC General Seán Clancy calls for close EU-NATO complementarity



For three decades, Europe operated within what General Seán Clancy Chair of the EU Military Committee (EUMC) called a "reassuring strategic story". That era, he argued at the [EPC Thought Leadership Forum on 23 February](#), is over.

Defence, he stressed, requires a whole-of-society approach: societal preparedness, supply chains, industry, sanctions and more. And in a veiled call for an EU Army, Clancy emphasised the need to align initiatives such as (PESCO), [the Readiness Roadmap 2030](#), the European Defence Fund and the European Defence Industrial Strategy. He praised the [Defence Omnibus](#) and called for unified national approaches.

Strengthening Europe's conventional capabilities within NATO requires close EU-NATO complementarity he added. Deepening partnerships with the United Kingdom, Norway and other like-minded actors is also part of that equation.

The state should "refuse" to provide money for an EU military fund



Former Minister for Defence, Éamon Ó Cuív, has said that Ireland should not be "involved in the militarisation that is taking place in the European Union" and that the state should "refuse" to provide money for an EU military fund. Speaking at a meeting organised by Lex Innocentium, Ó Cuív said that it would be "against the spirit of Article 29 of the Constitution" to provide money for military purposes in the European Union.

"We as a neutral country should not be involved in the militarisation that is taking place in the European Union. The EU spends billions on defence and the arms manufacturing industry directly by the EU every year. "We should refuse to put any money of this country into this fund. I also think it is against the spirit of Section 29 of the Constitution to provide money for this," said Ó Cuív.

A timeline of subservience



Historically, the EU has claimed to place crucial importance on upholding international law. But after the US and Israeli strikes in Iran, the EU is shamefully, yet again, turning a blind eye to the violation of the principles of the UN charter.

Germany, France, and the UK were the first to respond with a joint statement. The leaders of these three countries did not openly endorse the US-Israeli offensive, but their message leaned in that direction: they declared their readiness to take "defensive actions" to destroy Iran's military capabilities.

A little later, the 27 EU member states agreed on a more watered-down statement: they called for restraint and respect for international law, however, without condemning the US and Israeli strikes, which violate that very law. Because, according to the UN charter, no UN member may use force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. [Read more here](#)

Making us a target



The failure of the government to call out the latest flagrant breach of international law through the US/Zionist bombing of Iran is disgraceful and dangerous, and our government should be clearly stating to the international community its outright dissent from this moral and legal morass. The degree of EU collusion in breaches of international law is itself a breach of international law.

These "leaders" are aiding an act of aggression, and they are accountable for that. Moreover, it is multiplying the harm already done to international law by the EU's shameful role in the Gaza genocide, accelerating our slide into a much more violent and unsafe world, and undermining the security of every country and billions of people. The government of neutral Ireland has failed to act as a neutral and has tied our future to a militarised US/EU axis, making us a target in any future international conflicts.

National Maritime Security Strategy and other military developments



security and defence.

This strategy will take into account the wider context of Ireland's geographic position in the North Atlantic Sea Basin and, in particular, Ireland's membership of the EU and our responsibility and commitment to contribute to EU

- In support of the UK-Ireland 2030 initiative, update Defence Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Ireland and UK, including focus on a maritime security element.
- Deepen cooperation with France in the area of maritime security under new bilateral framework which will build on the successful 2021-2025 Joint Plan of Action
- Foster relations with North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in the maritime security space with further development of the Maritime Security and CUI (cyber security) elements of Ireland's Individually Tailored Partnership Programme (ITPP) with NATO
- The Department of Defence will move quickly to open discussions with the member states of JEF with the aim of gaining access for the Defence Forces to the JEF+ concept. Pursue opportunity to participate in Joint Expeditionary Force+ (JEF+) activities. See the article above re JEF.

Plus a wish list for 2026/7:

- Commencement of delivery of Military Radar Programme
- Subsea Domain Awareness Programme Phase 1 (towed sonar capability for the Naval Service)
- Subsea Domain Awareness Programme Phase 2 (sonobuoy capability for the Air Corps)

Plus possibly a new Forward Operating Base for the Naval Service on each of the East and West coasts (presumably the North East, since Haulbowline is in the South East already) [The strategy paper is here](#)



'The Defence Forces Artillery Corps will acquire the Caesar, a self-propelled 155m howitzer. The gun has a 55km range, meaning the Defence Forces may have to fire shells out to sea during target practice.' Navan, Drogheda and Newbridge will be within range of Dublin!

[Ireland has signed an agreement with France](#) for joint military training and intelligence



sharing. That's two billion Euro spent on possibly up to 400 military vehicles while we have a housing crisis, hospitals are overcrowded, its near impossible to see a doctor if one is ill and to cap it all, the government wanted to cut the number of special needs assistants. Make no mistake, we are entering a period of military induced austerity in Ireland and we will all feel the

pinch, especially the more vulnerable.

Harris is open to putting us in hock for weaponry



Simon Harris said he's "open to spending more" on defence, after a rousing speech by a French minister at Ireland's Paris embassy on the need for the EU to strengthen its defence. According to *The Journal*, Harris said, "Ireland is spending a lot more money on defence than we ever have before, and we're significantly and speedily increasing our capabilities." He said France has been an important source for Ireland in terms of "boosting our capabilities, and we're very grateful to them", not mentioning the cost.

"As Finance Minister, I'm open to spending more in relation to defence," he continued. He referenced the Safe Loan system, a European initiative that will provide up to €150 billion in "competitively priced, long-maturity loans to Member States requesting financial assistance for investments in defence capabilities". If it reopens, "I'm open to having a conversation about Ireland applying to that," he said. This is from the minister for finance of a country with creaking infrastructure and deteriorating public services. The sooner he's gone the better.

The rise of the right and EU militarisation



The President of Fine Gael's European People's Party, German MEP Manfred Weber, has spoken out in favour of further integrating EU member states in military matters. Weber pushed for an EU army in light of the rise of right-wing parties throughout Europe, on a German political talk show. "Europe must have the strength to learn its lesson. This also applies to military matters," he said, giving Simon Harris a lead!

He described how the rise of the right-wing Alternative for Germany party (AfD) was causing many of his EU colleagues unease and that he's often asked: "What is going to happen if Germany is building up the biggest land army, and at the same time AfD stands at 25 to 30 per cent of the vote in the polls? Is this something to be concerned about?"

Weber said these worries motivated him to push for greater integration of the defence capabilities of EU member states. Of course, the policies of the EU have fuelled the rise of the Right; from austerity to lack of accountability but not a word about that.



Lots of past articles at

<https://thepeoplesnews.home.blog/>

The 28th regime will be unveiled soon.

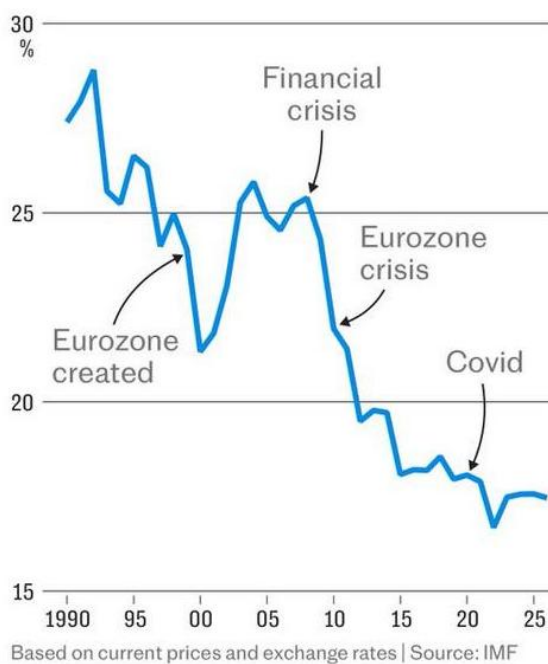


Intra-EU trade has declined, with goods trade dropping from 23.5 percent of EU GDP in 2023 to 22 percent in 2024, signalling fragmentation within the single market.

One of the supposed solutions is the commission's simplification agenda, which critics say risks deregulation, lowering standards that protect health, the environment, [workers](#) and [citizens' participation](#).

Later this month, the so-called [28th regime](#) will be unveiled, which would treat the EU as one market for company registration and labour, putting an end to a patchwork of 27 different national rules that are seen by the Commission as an obstacle for attracting capital, scaling-up and cross-border activities. If not all 27 member states agree on implementing the plan, a select group could move forward, according to von der Leyen – yet another coalition of the willing.

EU share of world GDP

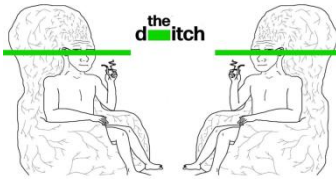


Commission raided in office-gate investigation



Police searched the Commission on Thursday as part of an investigation into the €880 million sale of 23 EU office buildings to a Brussels real estate fund. The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) said it is gathering evidence in an investigation into the 2024 sell-off but declined to comment further. The EU's anti-fraud office OLAF is also involved. Under the deal, the properties were transferred to the specially created Cityforward fund, which controls roughly 300,000 square metres of office space in the EU Quarter. Just another week at the office in Brussels!

Having an 'open and honest' discussion – The Ditch



Ultimately Experts give journalists a kind of cover. Their imprimatur convinces casual readers and viewers and listeners – people who are themselves overworked in the same way journalists are, who don't have the energy to scrutinise the credibility of pundits – that they've done their due diligence. Mostly they haven't.

The media perennially demands *open and honest* conversations about issues of importance like immigration, housing or defence. But for such conversations to take place we need to know who is participating in them.

That means explaining why certain opinions appear consistently while others are marginalised and what determines which Experts get platformed. Because, without the public knowing why the terms of any debate are framed a certain way, they can't fully take part in it.

[The full article from The Ditch is here](#)

And the understanding “that never existed”

US Secretary of State, James Baker, addressing Gorbachev, 9 February 1990, at the Kremlin, Moscow, on a unified Germany joining NATO + no NATO expansion

UNCLASSIFIED

United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Memcon from 2/9/90 meeting w/USRR Pres. Gorbachev & FM Shevardnadze, Moscow, USSR

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Date: Friday, February 9, 1990
Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Place: Kremlin

PARTICIPANTS: Secretary Baker
President Gorbachev
Eduard Shevardnadze

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

...
...
We understand the need for assurances to the countries in the East. If we maintain a presence in a Germany that is a part of NATO, there would be no extension of NATO's jurisdiction for forces of NATO one inch to the east. At the end of the day, if it is acceptable to everyone, we could have discussions in a two plus four context that might achieve this kind of an outcome. Maybe there is a better way to deal with the external consequences of German unification. And if there is I am not aware of it. We don't have German agreement but we have mentioned it to Genscher and he said he wants to think about it. Dumas liked it and now I have mentioned it to you.

Source: US National Security Archive
<https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/document/16116-document-05-memorandum-conversation-between>