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## Von der Leyen wants to remove veto on EU foreign policy



Ursula von der Leyen has called for taking advantage of Viktor Orbán's electoral defeat in Hungary to push for qualified majority voting in EU foreign policy. Von der Leyen said moving to majority voting is essential to prevent systematic blockades. She sees this as an opportunity to make progress on this issue.

She has also said that she agreed with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte to work in the coming weeks to strengthen the EU's relationship with the military alliance. "We discussed the upcoming NATO Summit and how we can upscale defence industrial output in Europe. We agreed to work closely together in the next weeks to strengthen the EU-NATO relationship and prepare a successful Summit in Ankara," she added.

All of which brings us closer to NATO and further compromises our sovereignty, should the veto on foreign policy be removed. It's hardly a coincidence that the government wants to abolish the Triple Lock?

## The EU Omnibus will fuel arms manufacturing and conflict zones



"Simplification" and "harmonisation" sound positive, but in the EU, they are used as a Trojan horse for massive deregulation. We have written before about the Defence Readiness Omnibus—designed to change how weapons are produced and sold, creating a further threat to global security. Trilogue negotiations begin soon under the guise of "completing the internal market" for defence and facilitating joint projects, but these proposals risk dismantling the export controls that were designed to keep EU weaponry out of the world's conflict zones.

The EU is effectively proposing to treat lethal weaponry no differently than potatoes! The proposal aims to make General Transfer Licences (GTLs) the standard practice in many cases. GTLs allow for the unlimited transfer of military goods over a number of years, causing member states to lose track of the final destination of weapons, particularly spare-parts, components and technologies.

[Read more here](#)

**If you needed proof that corporate capture is real, structured, and operating at industrial scale in Brussels right now, here it is.**



A new report from Corporate Europe Observatory: [‘This is what corporate capture looks like!’](#) shows, step by step, how the EU's so-called 'simplification agenda' is not a technocratic tidying exercise but a carefully constructed corporate project to scrap the rules that protect both us, and the environment. In the beginning, the Commission did deny it: Simplification Commissioner Dombrovskis said it was 'not about deregulation or diminishing our high standards'. Strange then that 84 per cent of Commissioner meetings on deregulation are with business groups.

Additionally, the Commission set up new, deliberately opaque consultation formats (Implementation Dialogues and Reality Checks) that hand business groups the dominant voice in deciding which laws get changed and how. Meanwhile, the fingerprints of specific industry lobby demands are traceable directly into the text of specific Omnibus proposals. **This is what corporate capture looks like.**

### **Impartial or independent – hardly**



The Institute of International and European Affairs or its spokespersons are frequently presented in the media as an impartial or expert commentator and has recently emerged as a major source for analysis and opinion on neutrality and military affairs. But the Institute, based in Dublin, is heavily reliant on institutional funding linked to government and the EU and could hardly be considered impartial. In the last closed account year available (2023) major funding contributions were received from the Dept. of Foreign Affairs €250,000; EU Commission €245,000 and a CERV (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)) grant of €238,663 increasing to €245,000 in 2025.

[Read more here](#)

### **Sanchez calls for EU Army**



Spanish Prime Minister Sanchez has called on the EU to establish a joint army, saying the bloc must take a more decisive role on the global stage while emphasising the need, along with German Chancellor Merz and von der Leyen, for collective defense mechanisms.

Sanchez stressed that Europe's role should not be limited to military strength. He said the EU must also lead "morally," contributing to global stability and sustainable development while addressing international crises.

PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT  
GLUAISEACHT AN PHOBAIL 

**No to EU Militarisation and an EU Army!**

**Keep the Triple Lock**

**Neutrality is our best defence.**

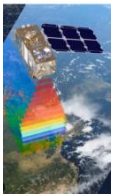
People's Movement will hold its monthly protest on

**Wednesday May 20th at 1:00pm.**

**Outside Dáil Eireann, Kildare St.**

**Please try to get along - it is important!**

## **The EU joins in the militarisation of space**



The EU's space agency, in which Ireland holds a share, will evolve into an EU body managing strategic and military-related infrastructure under a Commission legislative proposal published last week. The Commission is suggesting changes to the 2021 rules that govern its space program, including renaming the current agency to the European Union Space Services Agency (EUSSA).

[At the EU level](#), the European Commission plans to invest €10.6bn in the new EU secure satellite constellation, to be delivered by 2030. European Space Agency members have also pledged €1.2bn to its new dual civil-military-use European Resilience from Space programme.

The country is significantly increasing its involvement, committing €170 million to ESA programmes between 2025 and 2030 while Irish companies secured a record €24 million in ESA contracts in 2024, more than doubling the €9.9 million secured in 2023. Companies like Réaltra Space Systems Engineering, ÉireComposites, and Ubotica Technologies are mentioned as key Irish contributors to ESA projects.

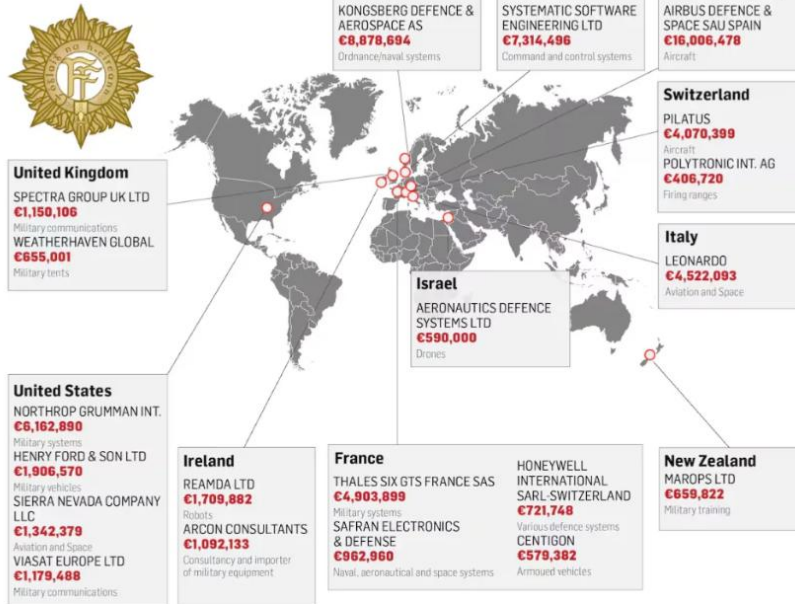
## **The comeback kid - well .....?**

The race to lead the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is officially underway. The winner takes over in 2027, running the U.N. body that sets global standards for food safety, manages the rules on fishing and deforestation and advises governments on how to feed their populations!!

A frontrunner is Phil Hogan who pushed through a big overhaul of farm subsidies and promoted the Mercosur trade deal. Since his forced resignation he has built a career advising multinational corporations. It's a background that raises questions about where his instincts lie when trade liberalisation meets the interests of farmers in the developing world. Ireland has formally nominated Hogan, with France offering an early endorsement. But even if the EU endorses him, there are 184 member states and .....

## Irish military procurement

Figures are based on records of Defence purchases over €20,000 for 2024 and 2025



Graphic: Paul Scott

## Rough times ahead



Economy commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis says the EU remains at risk of a prolonged [period of high inflation and low growth](#) despite the recent truce between the US and Iran adding that the EU's "longer-term outlook still remains clouded by profound uncertainty", remaining at risk of a prolonged period of high inflation and low growth despite the recent truce between the US and Iran, according to, the bloc's economy chief. "The EU economy remains at risk of [a stagflationary shock](#)," the

Latvian commissioner told the European Parliament's Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee in Brussels.

The war could shave 0.4 percentage points off EU growth and push inflation up by 1 percentage point this year – even if supply disruptions are short-lived, Dombrovskis said. But "more substantial" disturbances could cause prices to surge by 1.5 percentage points in both 2026 and 2027, he added.

The forecast impact could see EU growth come close to flatlining and inflation being pushed well above the European Central Bank's 2% target over the next couple of years. Brussels' most recent [forecast](#), released in November projected EU growth of 1.4% and an inflation rate of 2.1% in 2026.



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

## The shocking return of anti-personnel mines to Europe



In March 2025, the governments of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland announced their intention to withdraw jointly from the Ottawa Convention. Finland followed suit in April 2025.

The move from multiple EU member states marks a disturbing shift in national security policies, undermining the bloc's credibility on its own adherence to international humanitarian law.

For decades, the EU has been a supporter of the Ottawa Convention. EU strategies on conventional weapons explicitly condemn anti-personnel mines as indiscriminate tools that cause harm far beyond the battlefield. And yet, when several of its own members openly abandon this consensus, the EU refused even to utter words of condemnation. According to international monitoring organisations, roughly 80 to 85 percent of anti-personnel mine victims worldwide are civilians, many of them children.

## EU needs a 'single market' for defence - MEPs tell Commission



MEPs have urged the EU Commission to create a single market for defence as part of the bloc's attempts to increase integration of a multi-billion euro industry. At the EU Parliament's plenary session in March, they called for the bloc's military procurement law to be rewritten, and the creation of dedicated joint fund for innovative military ideas.

EU defence commissioner Kubilius will draw up a blueprint on the arms industry later this year and the commission has already set up set up the Security Action for Europe (SAFE) programme, which will offer up to €150bn in long maturity loans to EU countries to boost their defence spending by up to two percent of GDP. Ireland has not, so far, availed of the facility.

## The EU Military – Industrial complex is launched

The largest Polish beneficiary on the projects to be funded from the EU's Security Action for Europe (SAFE) programme is a company led by a politician from Prime Minister Tusk's party that doesn't even hold a licence to manufacture weapons and ammunition.

The firm, Polska Amunicja ammunition and Arms Company managed by Paweł Poncyłjusz, a former MP is projected to receive as much as a €2.3 billion loan to produce 300,000 units of ammunition. The company currently has no independent production capacity; employs just seven staff and does not have a production facility currently because it does not possess the licences required by law. It only has a licence to trade rather than produce or store arms. This means it can only act as an intermediary. And yet this intermediary is to receive as much as €2.3 billion! You can make up your own mind but it's probably just the beginning.



## Céad mile failte to the war economy in Ireland

<https://www.rundale.org/2026/03/31/where-extractivism-meets-the-military-industrial-complex-cead-mile-failte-to-the-war-economy-in-ireland/>

## An EU mutual defence clause trigger



Article 42.7 of the Lisbon Treaty resembles NATO's Article 5, a mutual defence clause but provides for a plea of neutrality to avoid involvement, should it be invoked. There can be little doubt but that if the Triple Lock is scrapped, that such a plea would lack any credibility and as this clause is binding on all member states, it is most likely that the current government would rush to arms. The Article has been invoked only once when France, in 2015, triggered the mechanism after terrorist attacks in Paris, Belgium and Germany shared intelligence and expertise.

But now following claims that Iranian drones targeted Cyprus, questions are being asked how countries can actually use the instrument and the European External Action Service (EEAS) plans to produce a guide as early as May, detailing what kind of resources are available from the EU if the Article 42.7 mechanism is triggered when a country is threatened.

The EEAS is also drafting the bloc's new Security Strategy comprising a threat assessment, a joint communication conceptualising the EU's security policy, and a roadmap for implementation.

Meanwhile, EU Defence Commissioner Andrius Kubilius has proposed a new intergovernmental treaty to establish a "defence union." he urged the creation of a genuine European defence union through an additional intergovernmental pact. Crucially, Kubilius emphasized that this new treaty should include key non-EU allies such as the United Kingdom, Norway, and Ukraine, [Euractiv wrote](#).

## Enhanced cooperation is on the table – Lisbon strikes again

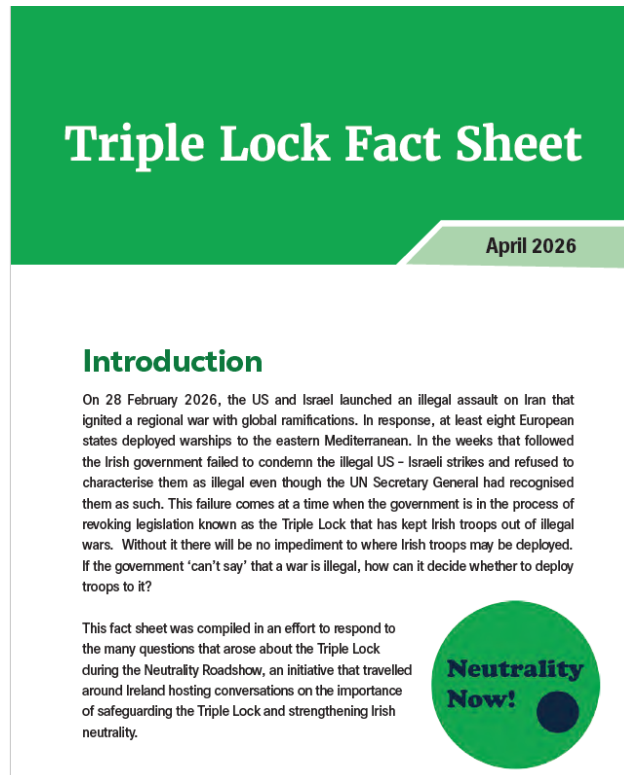


In a [strategy document obtained by Euractiv](#), the EU Commission proposes that countries that favour deeper integration should be able to forge ahead in groups of at least nine. "Lacking sufficient progress, the institutions will consider enhanced cooperation to secure swift and ambitious delivery," the document states.

Enhanced cooperation is a clause in the EU treaties allowing at least nine capitals to forge ahead with certain policy measures when majority voting would normally be required. It [was last invoked in December](#) to agree a €90 billion loan to Ukraine, without the support of Czechia, Slovakia and Hungary. The document, called the 'One Europe, One Market' roadmap, lists 42 policy measures, and seeks to speed up their adoption by setting an end-of-2027 deadline.

Von der Leyen has [repeatedly floated](#) the idea of a 'two-speed' Europe in recent months, and has suggested that she would personally support the use of enhanced cooperation to integrate countries' capital markets if there is no progress toward a 'capital markets union' by the end of 2026. French President Emmanuel Macron also [backs this move](#).

## Everything you needed to know about the Triple Lock – all the answers – from the people who brought you the Neutrality Roadshow



Click on the document above or there is a link [here](#)

## Blame the EU and government policy for high electricity prices



Across the EU, conflicts over data centres' demand for water, energy and land are increasing. In Spain, the [Your Cloud Dries Up My River](#) movement exposes [water-hungry data centres](#). Here in Ireland, a single facility near Clondalkin uses as much electricity as 200,000 homes! In the Netherlands, a [new school building struggled to be connected](#) to the electricity grid due to capacity pre-committed to a data centre. In Dublin, data centres now consume more than half the electricity used in the capital. All but five of the existing 82 data centres were in the Dublin region in 2023, though not all were connected to the grid. And [now it has emerged](#) that data firms successfully lobbied the EU [to keep data centre emissions secret!](#)

These local conflicts will only worsen now that the EU Commission plans to triple data centre capacity in the EU over the next five to seven years. The current EU approach to the Cloud and AI Development Act (CAIDA) will sacrifice local communities' interests in favour of the data centres' sector expansion and private profit.

[Read more here](#)

## The EU projects €131 billion for the military



The EU Commission (EC) expects to increase military spending in the new seven-year EU budget for 2028-2034 tenfold, to €131 billion, [compared to €13 billion in the previous one](#), it was announced by Andrius Kubilius at a hearing of the EU Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy. "In the upcoming negotiations - on the new seven-year EU budget, [no trade-offs, no compromises are acceptable](#). €131 billion is the absolute minimum," Kubilius said, addressing MEPs.

## The urgency of enacting the Occupied Territories Bill



Suspending the Association Agreement with Israel is the only tool left for the EU to affirm its commitment to a rules-based international order. Continued failure to do so, in light of evidence of ongoing Israeli war crimes and crimes against humanity, simply confirms the EU's double standards while undermining international law.

Under Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission has shown little sympathy for Palestine. Remember that in 2023 she congratulated Israel on its independence while openly embracing colonial narratives aimed at whitewashing and even justifying the ethnic cleansing of Palestine. There is a strong ideological bias in Brussels that continues to protect Israel. Ireland can erode that bias by stepping up and passing the Occupied Territories Bill instead of engaging in performative antics.

## EU censorship – we should be concerned



The EU has adopted a new practice of imposing severe economic sanctions on citizens - a total of 59 journalists and academics. Inside and outside the EU, the most recent being the Swiss Jacques Baud, [raises fundamental questions](#) about freedom of expression, the rule of law and democratic rights.

Such sanctions represent a punitive instrument of power and can deprive critics of EU political decisions of their fundamental rights without legal charges and to the exclusion of the public to a large extent, in order to 'induce' them to change their behaviour. Those affected are forbidden entry into the EU and no transit through the EU member state territory - freedom of travel within the EU is suspended. Their assets within the EU are frozen, i.e. no access to bank deposits. They are subject to a de facto occupational ban within the EU and are prohibited from continuing any contracts already concluded.

[Read more here](#)

