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Shannon is a base for “US power projection” – US/NATO General



In a veiled threat, NATO's top military commander has said in an RTE interview, that if the US military was prevented from using Shannon Airport, it "probably would" damage the relationship between the United States and Ireland. General Alexis Grynkeiwich, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and Commander of US European Command added, that there would be significant security implications (for the US) should access be lost as Shannon Airport is "a very important logistics hub. It allows America to project power.... and there would be some significant security implications from losing access there".

By allowing the US to project power from our territory, are we not effectively members of NATO? Even some [long-time NATO members](#) didn't allow this facility during the recent bombing of Iran. Our political leaders have positioned Shannon as a potential target in any possible conflict involving the US. The General mentioned China and Russia. And why was a NATO commander given airtime on our national broadcaster to intervene in matters of Irish sovereignty, governance, and national security? **You can view the interview here:** [NATO warning on importance of US Military a. ccess to Shannon Airport | RTÉ News](#)

Big Sister in Brussels wants your phone data



Big Brother in Brussels wants to check your phone messages before you send them. The EU Commission has proposed a law that would put scanning software on your own phone, comparing your photos and your chats against an official list before they are ever sent. That law has not passed but it returns later in the year, and when it does WhatsApp will not protect you, because the scan runs before the encryption does.

The proposed law is designed to protect children and we would all approve of that but in view of the all embracing nature of the proposed law, one does not need to be a conspiracy theorist to conclude that the data could be used for other surveillance purposes. The law the EU Parliament rejected last month reaches only into chats that

are not encrypted and doesn't oblige anybody to scan anything. However, the law stands until April 2028. So, how can it still be around if the vote was lost?

[Read more here](#)

[Here's the latest](#)

One of the banners at our last protest outside the EU Representation Office in Dublin



The void between the Irish people and the militarisers is profound.



The recent visit to Dublin by NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, General Alexis Grynkewich, served as an unfiltered glimpse into a deep and widening void within Irish society. It is reflected in a stark domestic chasm between a determined militarising bloc and the majority of the Irish people. It is only when outside elements like the NATO chief visit that the public gets a true flavour of the dynamics at work behind the scenes.

At the head of this militarising bloc sits the Irish Government, but it does not act alone. It is bolstered by powerful, sympathetic sections of the media and academia that provide the intellectual and rhetorical cover for a steady drift away from traditional Irish neutrality. Together, this alliance operates a sophisticated narrative machine, determined to normalise deeper integration with Western military structures.

The void between the Irish people and the militarisers is profound. The majority of citizens believe in neutrality that keeps Ireland entirely out of the Western military apparatus. The Government, aided by its media and academic allies, is quietly but determinedly pulling Ireland into that very apparatus. It took an outsider to state the blunt truth: only the militarising bloc is pretending otherwise.

[Read more here](#)

Poland beats the drum!

Polish Foreign Minister Sikorski advocated for the creation of a permanent "European Legion." "I strongly advocate for a 'European Legion', a dedicated, standing force that could recruit seasoned professionals from the broader European family, including battle-hardened Ukrainian veterans after the war," Sikorski said, adding that the EU requires deeper military integration and autonomous defense capabilities.

And, Poland's army will soon be the "largest in Europe," Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said during the country's Army Day celebrations on Aug. 15

The EU Commission is pursuing a police cooperation agreement with Israel



In 2022, negotiations on a police agreement between the EU and the Israeli government reportedly came to a halt over concerns related to Israel's occupation of Palestine. Yet, an investigation by Statewatch shows discussions have continued—and involve a standoff between the Commission and the Council of the European Union.

Not only could the agreement be in breach of international law, but the Commission kept negotiating even during the ongoing genocide against the Palestinians. If adopted, the deal may allow for the exchange of sensitive personal data between the EU and Israel, which could be used in occupied territories. Experts warn this could lead to state-sanctioned human rights violations against both Palestinians and Israelis.

Statewatch has reconstructed what led to the standoff between the European governing bodies, what has happened since, and what the proposed agreement entails.

[The Statewatch report is here](#)

Tentative steps towards an EU nuclear deterrent?



Germany and France are deepening their military cooperation in a so-far unexplored field. “We are strengthening European deterrence. Starting this year, we will participate in a nuclear exercise of the French armed forces”, declared Chancellor Merz following the Franco-

German Defence and Security Council held on 17 July. The idea of opening a dialogue regarding the role of French nuclear deterrence for European partners was articulated by Emmanuel Macron in March at Île Longue, the operational base for France's ballistic missile submarines. Nine EU Member States have already expressed interest in discussing this initiative.

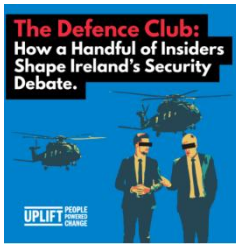
Furthermore, a high-level Franco-German steering group on nuclear issues has been established, intended to serve as a bilateral framework for dialogue and the coordination of strategic cooperation. However, every French president since De Gaulle has emphasised the European dimension of French deterrence, while reserving the decision to use nuclear weapons exclusively to the president. This stance has not changed under Macron, who reiterated in his speech that there would be “no sharing of the ultimate decision or of its planning or execution”. Nevertheless, though it could be a long way off, this is possibly the first step towards an EU bomb.

Elsewhere, in July, France and Britain signed the Northwood Declaration pledging unprecedented coordination on their nuclear deterrence policy

The [EU semester Irish recommendation](#) is [here](#)



The Neutrality Files Volume 2 – from UPLIFT



In Ireland, there is a small, well-resourced network of arms industry lobbyists and their allies in think tanks and advisory committees who have secured access and influence that ordinary citizens do not have. The Irish Defence and Security Association (IDSA) is a group that lobbies on behalf of the biggest arms dealers in the world including Lockheed Martin, Patria, Saab, Hensoldt, and Kongsberg.

These companies make billions of dollars from selling weapons and see their stock values rise when wars break out. Irish government meetings with this group are frequent, with at least 25 such engagements taking place between government ministers and officials and the IDSA between late 2021 and mid-2025, as well as networking events and industry parties hosted by the Department of Defence and Defence Forces.

You can read the full report of '*The Defence Club: How a Handful of Insiders Shape Ireland's Security Debate*' [here](#).

The NATO Ankara Summit outcomes have implications for us



One clear outcome of the recent NATO summit in Ankara is that the Europe is preparing to assume primary responsibility for its own conventional defense by developing the concept of a “third NATO” – NATO 3.0.

By 2030, the combined defense budgets of EU member states will reach a staggering €1 trillion. Meanwhile, the EU's Commissioner for Defence and Space, Andrius Kubilius, has requested a fivefold increase in funding for military and space programs and the development of a EU equivalent of [NATO's Article 5](#) on collective defense, while asserting that [EU's Article 42.7](#) on collective defense may be even more effective. Other summit outcomes include military spending rising toward 5% of GDP, long-term industrial mobilisation and Europe taking primary responsibility for conventional warfare.

[Read more here](#)



The EU's new border-check system lacks public scrutiny



The EU's new €2bn Entry/Exit System (EES) has been rolled out over the past few months and automatically records who is entering or leaving the Schengen Area. It has led to long queues and delays. The EES, together with the European Travel Authorisation System (ETIAS), is structured to integrate databases across migration and public security creating an extensive digital border surveillance infrastructure. The two systems combined are capable of screening **more than 1.4bn travellers**, and will be integrated into searchable profiles combining biometric, migration, visa, and law-enforcement data.

Traveller's participation in these systems is not optional: biometric registration and automated assessment are conditions for mobility or legal status. Importantly, the design, development, and deployment of digital border infrastructure must not be allowed to proceed without open public debate and meaningful participation of those most affected. This democratic accountability requires making the infrastructure itself legible. As the EU expands its surveillance infrastructure, the agencies behind them, EU-LISA, its procurement processes, and its corporate partnerships need to become something the public, policymakers, public representatives and affected communities can actually see, understand, and hold to account. Unfortunately the EU's penchant for secrecy and corporate embrace makes this increasingly unlikely.

[Read more here](#)

Sauce for the goose is not sauce for the gander



A [study](#) published last week by the EU's Joint Research Centre (JRC), the commission's in-house think-tank, shows that plans to liberalise rules on pesticides used by EU farmers, while simultaneously tightening controls on those contained in imports to the bloc, which could drive a major spike in prices. Meanwhile, the EU [continues to export banned pesticides](#).

The study found that lowering maximum residue levels (MRLs) for imported food and feed to the limit of quantification (LOQ) for the most hazardous pesticides banned in the EU could lead to a 41 percent drop in agricultural imports and higher consumer prices across the bloc. Under a worst-case scenario, EU consumers would be facing a 332 percent increase in coffee prices and 82 percent for citrus fruit, according to the JRC research.

The proposed drop on residue limits, which is part of the food and feed safety omnibus law, has been designed to address the concerns of European farmers that the EU's new trade deals, particularly the pact with the South American Mercosur bloc that came into effect in May, will lower standards. Clearly, sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander!

The periphery loses and the centre gains – again?



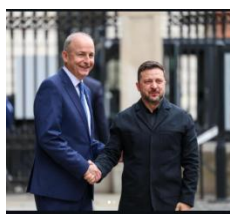
Ireland was an early warning. Now, Bulgaria is following the same path as Ireland, Croatia, and southern Europe, while Germany and other core countries continue to build large trade surpluses at their expense. Francesco Lenzi's analysis presents EU integration as a system where the periphery loses and the centre gains.

Ireland didn't accidentally create a housing bubble and a banking crash. The euro's design actively pushed it into that situation. Without its own currency and with access to artificially cheap loans from the European Central Bank, Ireland followed a predictable pattern. It experienced a short boom fuelled by debt, which led to rising inflation and made its exports less competitive. When the boom ended, the recovery wasn't a mild adjustment. It was a harsh period of internal devaluation: years of austerity, high emigration, and wage cuts, all imposed to fix trade imbalances that the euro itself had created.

Lenzi, in his critique, "Welcome Croatia and Bulgaria into the meat grinder," argues that Ireland's fate wasn't a one-off accident. It's a built-in feature of the euro system.

<https://www.qzone.it/index.php/q-themes/1204-benvenute-croazia-e-bulgaria-nel-tritacarne>. You can read his [article in translation here](#)

“Standing with Ukraine”



As a neutral state within the EU, Ireland finds itself in an increasingly contradictory and compromised position regarding the war in Ukraine. Over the past years, we have watched NATO hold so-called "peace summits"—to which Russia was not even invited—where EU leaders, such as Poland's President Duda, openly spoke of "peace" in terms of breaking up the Russian Federation. Now the EU is demanding an "unconditional ceasefire." For a neutral nation like Ireland, which values genuine diplomacy, it is obvious this is not a peace proposal, but an effort to extend the war. An "unconditional ceasefire" is merely a precondition designed to freeze a conflict, buying time to rearm, regroup, and potentially introduce NATO troops under the guise of "peacekeepers"—a direct red line for Irish neutrality.

Instead, the EU's version of "standing with Ukraine" now looks grotesque to a neutral Irish observer: it entails deporting Ukrainian refugees from European soil and financing military recruiters to hunt Ukrainian men on the streets to die in an unwinnable war. Proxy wars are inherently ruthless, using the proxy as cannon fodder, yet they are sold to the Irish and EU public as acts of empathy. Ireland's membership in the EU must not mean becoming complicit in the unnecessary sacrifice of the Ukrainian people to serve a militarised, NATO-driven agenda.

[Read more here](#)

