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Limiting the right of veto in foreign policy matters



Berlin re-launched its campaign to limit the right of veto in foreign policy matters at the recent meeting of EU Foreign Minister in Dublin. Germany, France and eight other countries, including the Netherlands and Luxembourg, say they are prepared to restrict the use of their right of veto in foreign and security policy matters. This group, led by Germany, is committed to being 'more constructive' and

working in a 'spirit of sincere cooperation' in order to speed up decision-making in these areas. As a sop, they propose abstaining, rather than voting against, when they are unable to support a decision – an unlikely eventuality in the case of military developments in view of the supporters!

Finally, they call on the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs to propose legislative measures that would allow voting by qualified majority on certain foreign policy issues, whilst leaving the EU treaties untouched. Amending the treaties would, risk the necessity for referendums in some member states and the possibility of rejection of the measure.

Dangerous times for Ireland

The Taoiseach has now put Ireland's name to the "Coalition of the Willing", a group led by France and Britain coordinating military support and planning a multinational force for Ukraine, outside both the UN and NATO.



Nobody asked the Irish people. Nobody asked the Dáil and the same Government now moves to scrap the Triple Lock. Standing with Ukraine cannot mean a blank cheque and no questions asked. The Irish people, and the Dáil, deserve a say on this issue which clearly aligns us with one side in the conflict and if the Triple Lock is

abolished presents yet another possible arena where Irish troops could be engaged in combat operations. Furthermore, in the event of an international conflict, Shannon; transit point for US troops, data centres used by the US military, according to NATO General Grynkewich, and other related installations would become targets. It's speculative but still possible. Dangerous times indeed!



Clancy confirms EU plans for Lebanon military mission



Irish General Seán Clancy, chair of the European Union Military Committee, has confirmed that planning is advancing for a major EU military and civilian mission in Lebanon to replace the United Nations peacekeeping force. Clancy said the proposed operation would provide support to the Lebanese government, strengthen border security and assist the Lebanese Armed Forces, alongside a civilian component. He said the military element would help free up Lebanon's internal security forces to carry out their

responsibilities, while EU assistance would also focus on the country's border areas – in effect policing for the Israeli Army.

Ireland, France, Spain and Austria are understood to be involved in discussions behind the scenes – the governments haste to abolish the Triple lock is hardly unrelated! Clancy will now work on proposals for the mission, which he believes has broad support among EU member states. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is due to end its 48-year presence in the country in December after the UN Security Council decided not to renew its mandate. Ireland currently has 375 personnel serving with UNIFIL. Minister Mc Entee [has said that](#) Ireland will be part of a future EU CSDP mission in Lebanon - with no consideration of a UN mandate for deployment.

The future of international peacekeeping in southern Lebanon comes amid Israel's ongoing bombing campaign and ground operations in the south, which Israel says are aimed at Hezbollah. Israeli military operations have established a buffer zone, with towns and villages levelled and thousands of people displaced. Clancy said EU "financial instruments" within the Common Security and Defence Policy would be available to help fund the proposed mission, adding that he is confident EU civilian and military personnel will eventually deploy.

Our next protest against EU militarisation and for retention of the Triple Lock. [Please note change of venue](#)

**PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT
GLUAISEACHT AN PHOBAIL**



No to EU Militarisation and an EU Army!

Keep the Triple Lock!

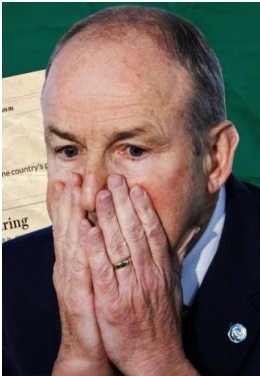
The People's Movement will hold its monthly protest on

Wednesday 16th September at 1:00pm.

**Department of Foreign Affairs
Iveagh House, St Stephens Green**

Please try to get along – it is important

Iceland says NO!



The incomprehension of Irish Europhiles at Iceland's decisive rejection of EU membership talks reveals a fundamental unwillingness to confront the historical record and undemocratic character of the EU integration project.

When 52.8% of Icelandic voters rejected the government's proposal to reopen accession negotiations, the reaction from Europhile quarters in Dublin—where the EU has been elevated to near-religious status—has been one of bewilderment. How could a prosperous, progressive Nordic nation choose to remain outside the club that Ireland embraced so enthusiastically?

The answer lies in a history that they have chosen to forget.

[Read more here](#)

The slow death of Irish sovereignty



When Helen McEntee hosted the EU foreign ministers' "[Gymnich](#)" [meeting](#)¹ at Druids Glen Resort in Wicklow, she showcased not so much Ireland's diplomatic autonomy as the country's true status as a vassal of the EU. Yet this carefully choreographed diplomatic spectacle exposes an unsettling truth: Ireland is being dragged into the proxy war it never chose, while our so-called "national" politicians either turn a blind eye or willingly act as accomplices.

This Wicklow meeting and the German-led campaign to abolish the foreign policy veto, re-launched there, reveal a disturbing reality:

Ireland's "national" politicians have become completely disconnected from their own citizens.

[Read more here](#)

Something to be concerned about?



NATO is considering stationing additional American nuclear weapons in Europe. The alliance is even considering the stationing of nuclear weapons near Russia's borders. According to CND, new American nuclear bombs have already been sent covertly to the Britain.

Countries close to or on the border with Russia, including Finland and Lithuania, are being discussed as potential sites, with Lithuania revising its constitution to make this legally possible.

This development assumes importance in the EU context because the [Maastricht Treaty](#) created the European Union (EU) in 1992 using a three-pillar structure and laid the groundwork for a stronger European military role connected to NATO via the Western European Union (WEU). This is something to be concerned about as the government seeks to accelerate our involvement in NATO and EU military structures.

[Read more here](#)

¹ <https://alwaystkf.weebly.com/gymnich.html>

More power to von der Leyen?



Vice-President of the European Commission, [Kaja Kallas](#) has resisted calls to fold her [European External Action Service](#) (EEAS) into the Commission, after foreign ministers considered a [German-led proposal](#) that would concentrate even more power in the hands of von der Leyen. “The problem is not the treaties, not the institutional setup. The problem is the implementation of that setup,” Kallas said, pointing at the Commission for “duplicating” her service’s tasks.

Kallas may already have lost control of the EEAS reform process she launched recently. Johann Wadephul, Germany’s foreign minister, has invited ministers to a conference in Berlin on 2 December. The future of the EEAS is likely to come up, alongside his proposal to move away from unanimity in foreign and security policy. [Euractive has published the document.](#)

Fresh EU help for Israel’s war industry



Almost three years after the Gaza genocide began, the EU is still being helpful to Israel and its weapons industry. A fresh example of the help being offered involves a “security research” [project](#) scheduled to begin in September. The Israel Innovation Authority is part of the network benefiting from that €3.5 million project, which aims to improve the quality of bids for EU “security research” grants. **David Cronin’s article is [HERE](#)**

Marta Kos Must Respect the Result



When Marta Kos, the European Commissioner for Enlargement, attempts to explain the outcome of Iceland’s 29 August referendum in terms of misleading arguments and voters having been misled, she crosses a line. Marta Kos was not a neutral observer of the referendum. She had a clear political and institutional interest in Iceland voting to reopen accession negotiations with the European Union. Only a few days before the referendum, she stated that Iceland could become an EU member within one or two years. Icelandic voters rejected that course. *This article by Erna Bjarnadóttir, an economist and a leader of the NO campaign in Iceland will strike a chord with Irish readers!!!*

[Read more here](#)

One –sided lobbying

The EU's most powerful lobbyists are investing €382 million in lobbying – more than ever before. They spent €28 million more than last year, almost 50 percent more than in 2020. Their goal: to influence EU institutions. In a democracy, influence on politics should be balanced and not depend on one’s financial means. Unfortunately, current trends show the opposite: fewer and fewer players wield more and more power in Brussels.

[Read more here](#)

More money for the military – less for services



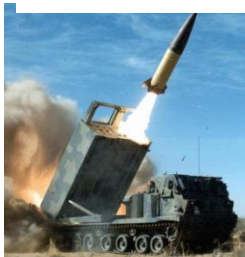
Despite ambitious EU plans and rising military spending within the bloc, achieving readiness by 2030 remains challenging, according to [a review](#) by the European Court of Auditors (ECA).

EU countries' combined defence spending grew by almost 80 % between 2020 and 2025. Ultimately, according to the ECA, funding may still be insufficient to address agreed military priorities and achieve stated goals, such as for military mobility. The EU is increasingly using loans backed by the EU budget, including the €150 billion to speed up member states' military readiness through the Security Action for Europe (SAFE) programme and the €90 billion Ukraine loan, €60 billion of which is for the military. The increasing use of debt-financed defence spending and EU-backed loans could undermine fiscal sustainability by slowing public debt reduction and placing pressure on the EU budget, not to mention further cuts in the standard of living.

[Read more here](#)

Is this what neutrality looks like?

The government has announced that military training funding will come out of the €125 million package for Ukraine announced in July. This is a change in policy as Ireland now provides direct funding to the Ukrainian military for training facilities in Ukraine as part of the EU's training mission in the country. Separate from direct cash donations, the Irish Defence Forces have [supplied specialised physical hardware](#), including vehicle fleets, satellite communications systems, and advanced radar systems.



Ireland has previously sent army personnel to Europe to train Ukrainian soldiers in combat drills, mine clearance and battlefield medical care but had previously said it would not provide offensive supplies such as weapons and ammunition. It has however, provided former army vehicles. Minister McEntee described the funded facility, as a "critical piece of infrastructure for them in their combat and in their training priorities at the moment".

More military spending in the offing

Speaking at the recent meeting of EU Defence Ministers at Druids Glen, Minister



McEntee said that there had been an under-spend on the military, but insisted that was in the past: "I believe that has changed, and that will continue to change. We've increased our defence spending overall by 43% in the last few years alone. As we get into budget negotiations, my ambition, working with colleagues across Government, is to increase that further."

"I believe that we should, look to join SAFE to make sure that we can again increase our overall investment in our capabilities, in particular." SAFE (Security Action for Europe) is an EU instrument providing loans of up to €150 million to help EU member states to make significant increases in their military spending.

Swiss Neutrality referendum



Swiss voters will decide on 27 September whether to enshrine a “stricter definition” of neutrality in the constitution, The [initiative](#) aims to reinforce the principle of permanent and armed neutrality and restrict Switzerland’s ability to participate in international measures, such as sanctions, against states involved in armed conflicts.

Sponsored by the main opposition party and opposed by the government, polls current predict defeat for the proposal. Supporters argue that Switzerland’s neutrality has been severely eroded, specifically pointing to the government's 2022 decision to adopt [EU sanctions against Russia](#). “Sanctions are, just like the military, a means of combat; we are now a belligerent against Russia,” a supporter of the amendment said, arguing that neutrality should cover not only military action but also economic and diplomatic measures, or anything that could jeopardise Switzerland’s security. The only exceptions allowed would be sanctions explicitly mandated by the UN Security Council

Switzerland would be blocked from joining or cooperating with any military alliances during peacetime. This would likely force an end to its current involvement in NATO’s [Partnership for Peace programme](#) only permitting military cooperation if Switzerland itself comes under direct armed attack. What chance such a referendum here?

Roundup is safe says EU



Glyphosate is cleared of cancer charges – The EU’s chemicals agency ECHA has concluded that [a new study](#) linking the herbicide glyphosate(Roundup) to tumours [does not change](#) the EU’s assessment that it should not be classified as carcinogenic. The study claimed that glyphosate, the world’s most popular weed killer, was linked to increased tumour rates in rats, including at doses considered safe under EU rules; which leaves one wondering about the EU’s [precautionary principle](#)!

The EU has an eye on household savings



Von der Leyen wants to mobilise the €10 trillion households keep in bank deposits as the EU looks for hundreds of billions more every year to finance military developments and the green transition. Speaking to French business leaders, she complained regarding the large share of EU household savings that remain in bank deposits, characterising these savings as “lazy.

There is currently no plan to confiscate deposits or withdraw money from individual bank accounts. Brussels’ proposal is: to use tax incentives, new financial products and regulatory changes to push a greater share of private savings towards EU capital markets and increased risk. You can expect similar incentives in Simon Harris’ forthcoming budget.

[Read more here](#)