

No.290

October 2026.

Articles may be used or adapted in whole or in part including changing titles if desired, and circulated without any need of reference to or acknowledgement of the source.

A job for the EU Army!



NATO's General Secretary, Rutte says that: "Europe was not able to take out the nuclear capability of Iran. We couldn't. We will have the capabilities in 10 years — we can, and we should".

So, the EU Army will act as the rear mudguard of NATO and, of course, we won't be in NATO according to Mr Martin, even if the Triple Lock is abolished! But it's a small step from EU Battlegroups, in which we participate, to an EU 'peace' mission to Iran. Scary! Even the interviewer looks gobsmacked.

[The interview video is here](#)

A concerning deal with the US on handing over traveller data



The EU Commission has [agreed a draft deal](#) with the US on a [framework](#) for providing potentially sensitive information about European travellers. [Concerns](#) have centred on access that [US authorities could gain](#) to highly sensitive information about member state citizens, including travellers' political opinions and biometric data like fingerprints and facial scans, and what they would be allowed to do with it. It's a huge price to pay for visa-free travel and the draft deal may be in conflict with EU legislation. But that's hardly an issue anymore for increasingly arrogant Brussels elite.

Tut – Tut!



The European Court of Auditors has issued an adverse opinion on EU spending for the seventh year running, with the estimated error rate climbing again to 3.8 per cent of the money examined and borrowing on course for €1 trillion. Court President and Cabra native, Tony Murphy warned of a tendency to treat common debt as "virtual money", and noted that repayments would swallow 8 per cent of the next long-term budget.

Note change of venue!

PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT
GLUAISEACHT AN PHOBAIL



Keep the Triple Lock!

People's Movement protest

Wednesday 21st October at 1:00pm.

Fianna Fáil HQ 65-66 Mount Street Lower



Tell your friends!

War without limits – hybrid warfare



On 16 September, the European Parliament passed a resolution on 'Hybrid warfare and the protection of the EU's territorial integrity and critical security and defence infrastructure.' The Rapporteur (or drafter) of the report was a Lithuanian MEP named Rasa Juknevičienė.

The potential for structures established to fight 'hybrid warfare' to be used against ordinary civic activism and protest is therefore essentially unlimited. The 'primary objective' of hybrid warfare, we're told, is 'to destabilise, divide and undermine the EU and its Member States'. Criticism, dissent, political action, union organising, community organising - all of public and social life consequently contains within it lurking threats. And those who govern us are equipping themselves with a comprehensive framework to discipline and punish.

Clare Daly's Substack article is [here](#) or [in Word here](#)

Past articles from Peoples News may be found at the Peoples Movement blog [here](#)

EU leaders kitted out for war



EU leaders present themselves shoulder to shoulder in military-style jackets at the Arctic summit. If a picture is worth a thousand words this pictures should scream to an Irish public. It shows us something we have known for some time: the European Union's famed "peace project" is a thing of the past.

Those military jackets, slapped over the tailored suits of the great and the good, symbolise an EU that seems to have only one thing on its mind: war! For the population of a neutral country like Ireland looking at EU top brass all lined up in military jackets, is deeply unsettling. Are these politicians really preparing for war?

[Read more here](#)

EU Member States plan “digital expropriation” of citizens in the interest of AI companies



In a leaked document, the Irish Presidency proposes to EU Member States that the interest of OpenAI, Anthropic, Google, Meta and SpaceX to make profits should take precedence over the fundamental right to data protection. Use of personal data “in the context of AI” should automatically be lawful. There seems to be wide informal agreement by many Member States. In particular, Big Tech would be able to use all personal data collected over the past decades with virtually no restrictions, as long as this happens “in the context” of AI.

“Under these proposals, the profits of AI companies would trump European’s fundamental right to privacy. This is nothing but a digital expropriation of Europeans.” All this is happening despite the key figures of AI corporations actively warn about the enormous risks associated with their own products. [Read more here](#)

EU/NATO – No thanks Seán!

The Chairman of the EU Military Committee, whose job is to advise top EU officials on military strategy, has urged the EU to incorporate NATO into its growing military space program to assure that the 32-nation alliance and the 27-nation EU reinforce each other. Speaking at the recent Euronews Defence and Space Summit, former head of the



Irish Air Corps, Gen. Seán Clancy said, that the best way to do that, is to solicit military advice in the design phase of a space program. “Where policies have military implications, the military perspective must be brought in ...”

Keep them in the dark



The EU is increasingly keeping the public in the dark, the European Ombudsman Teresa Anjinho has warned as top officials in Brussels continue to delete their texts. She said text messages, disappearing chats and decisions shaped by artificial intelligence make it harder than ever to scrutinize the EU institutions, and she accused officials of feet-dragging and evasion when it comes to responding to requests for documents.

The problem can be neatly summed up with the way the Commission searched for von der Leyen's texts with Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla during Covid vaccine negotiations. "The search that followed....was designed not to find what it was asked to find," Anjinho said. Just last week, the Commission confirmed that it will continue to delete von der Leyen's texts — even though the ombudsman said doing so amounted to maladministration.

Are they worth it?



Our MEPS are handsomely rewarded with a [salary of €11,255.26](#) a month before tax or €8,772.70 after paying EU tax and insurance contributions and that's less than half of what EU commissioners get, and just 38% of what EU judges are paid. Every month they get another €4,950 as a general expenditure allowance, supposed to cover the costs of renting an office in his constituency, mobile phone bills, advertising and publications. Meanwhile, their general attendance records are [the subject of complaints](#).

And, there's no way to verify that MEPs actually spend the money as they should, because "not one single receipt is required" for the €40 million paid out each year from EU taxpayers. Under EU Parliament rules, they can [voluntarily declare](#) that they're spending the money within the rules but most MEPs don't bother.

[Read more here](#)

And, one worth watching:

Is 'Hybrid Warfare' a Psy-Op? - With Rory Rowan. [The link is here](#) (View from 9:00 onwards)



The media and political establishment acts like we're already at war – and seeing 'threats' everywhere is part of the fight. In a world where just talking can mark you as a hybrid warrior, Trinity College Dublin academic, writer and activist Rory Rowan discusses what it all means, and fails to mean.



European network against arms trade

ENAAT: European network against the arms trade - latest Newsletter is [here](#) for those who would like more detailed news on EU militarisation.

Fossil-fuelled data-centres can pass as 'green' – in whose interest?



A data centre that draws on coal or gas power through the night can still get a 'green' label under [a new EU classification system](#) as long as its operator buys enough green certificates over the year.

Data centres currently account for around 2.5 percent of EU electricity use, but this is set to grow as Brussels wants to triple its capacity within seven years as part of its push into artificial intelligence. Data centres in Ireland used 23% of generated electricity in 2025 (projected to grow to 32% by 2030) while all domestic users consumed 27%. Apart from power, data centres also use a lot of water for cooling.

[The rules as they stand](#) let data centre operators to count green certificates over a whole year, which means that solar during the summer can compensate for gas burnt during winter nights, while still getting a green label generated automatically using data [submitted annually by operators](#).

The importance of keeping the Triple Lock



The undemocratic attack on Irish neutrality by the Government has reached a fever pitch. As a neutral country we should be using the EU Presidency to promote peace and dialogue to end conflicts and to encourage the EU to pull back from increasing militarisation. In effect, quite the opposite is happening. The Irish EU presidency is being fully utilised to undermine and assault our tradition of neutrality that goes back beyond the formation of the Irish state, to Connolly and Wolfe Tone before him.

The EU leadership, the Government and the media worked in tandem to drum up an inflation of threats, the new Red Scare, and talk of Ireland as the weak link in EU defence. The result is new military spending commitments, high level talks with Britain about joining a North Atlantic naval alliance, and talk of joining an EU-led military mission in Lebanon. Much of this was discussed at a recent informal meeting of EU defence ministers at the Druids Glen Hotel

[Read more here](#)

Biometric identification is a threat to our freedom



As AI-powered biometric identification is adopted by police, national authorities should go beyond legal requirements to build trust within the public, the [Fundamental Rights Agency](#) (FRA), an EU branch which keeps tabs on citizens' freedoms, [has advised](#); "To build public trust, law enforcement should publish the results of their fundamental rights impact assessments, going beyond what the AI Act requires."

The [Garda Síochána \(recording devices\) \(amendment\) Act 2026](#) for example, will allow for the use of biometric recognition technologies as a tool to process evidence in serious criminal investigations, matters relating to State security, an "arrestable offence" and for missing persons cases. [It was signed into law in July.](#)

[Read more here](#)

Ever closer to NATO!



The EU through the European Investment Bank (EIB) plans [to help turn a port in Lithuania](#) into a strategic NATO hub as part of a project worth more than €200 million at the port of Klaipėda to accommodate NATO vessels. The EIB is owned by the member state including Ireland whose subscribed share capital is €1.3bn (Protocol No 5 of EIB Statute).

The EIB will provide a €100 million, with the remaining funds provided by the EU, national sources, and other institutions. The EIB emphasised that parts of the port's civilian cruise terminal will be adapted to NATO requirements to provide "more efficient logistical support for the Alliance's naval vessels."

Ireland participates in EU military space project!



Fifteen EU countries have agreed to establish a military space data mechanism initially expected to be worth around €50 million. Run by the European Defence Agency (EDA), it will provide access to shared information on objects and activity in orbit giving participating militaries a common, up-to-date picture of space activity. Initial operating capability is targeted for early 2029. [Ireland is a participating country.](#)

The mechanism will build on EDA's EU SatCom Market, which supplies commercial satellite communications to defence ministries and EU missions. Launched in 2012, it has become EDA's largest project, with its contract ceiling increasing to €250 million in early 2024. [The EU doesn't have weapons in space](#) – just yet but comments from US Air Force Secretary Troy Meink—confirming the presence of US [weapons in orbit](#) and from the [EU's Defence and Space Commissioner](#) are significant.

All is not well!



Whistleblowers have launched a new challenge to the leadership of the 329 member, €180million-per-year [European Economic and Social Committee](#) (EESC), accusing senior officials of dragging their feet on corruption allegations and attempting an 'illegal' hunt to unmask them. It accuses its President, Séamus Boland, a farmer from Ballycumber, Co

Offaly, who was elected as president last October, of "outrageous lies" in his handling of the scandal. An original letter alleged that Isabelle Le Galo Flores, the secretary-general, had rigged contracts for her friends. The leadership itself then referred the matter to [OLAF](#), the EU's in-house anti-fraud office. Now, MEPs in the budgetary scrutiny committee are looking for answers.

The new letter from a group calling itself "All United against Corruption" and states they are staff members from the HR/finance and IT departments vows not to stop until the senior leadership team "have been moved aside and prosecuted to the full extent of the law." Boland had detailed security officers to look for the "perpetrator" behind the anonymous letters. Staff unions denounced the move as a "witch-hunt". Patricia McKeown and Jack O'Connor represent ICTU on the EESC.

The State of the Union

Von der Leyen used her State of the European Union address last month to outline a new EU response to threats "which fall below armed aggression but clearly threaten our national security". Among the proposals the Commission president unveiled was a mechanism to complement NATO's Article 4, which would be referred to as the [Emergency Security Protocol](#). "When triggered by one member state, all member states would convene to coordinate a European response." She also

announced of plans for Canada to become an "associate member" of the EU, though there is no provision in the treaties for such a category of membership.

But that's not all. Von der Leyen also proposed a potential new leader's format, titled the European Security Council. The group would include not just EU member states but also 'like-minded' countries such as Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Norway and Canada. In practice, leaders like Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy are already frequently invited to European Council meetings. The [new format](#) would institutionalise this relationship, giving it a dedicated framework to discuss security matters. Commissioner for the Economy Dombrovskis said the European Security Council would "[complement NATO](#)."

Toxic chemicals affect us all – what does the EU do?



In December, the European Commission proposed a legislative package that would remove fundamental environmental and health protections against pesticides in the EU. Among other changes, the proposal – ironically labelled the ‘Food and Feed Safety’ [Omnibus](#) – suggests extending pesticide approvals *indefinitely* and relaxing the rules to allow pesticides already identified as hazardous to remain on the EU market.

So, instead of strengthening protections, the EU is moving backwards. This is largely due to intense and [repeated](#) lobbying from multi-billion euro corporations, which includes the pesticides industry. Corporate chemical giants now [spend](#) €46m a year just to lobby the EU; that’s over 60 percent more than in 2020.

[Read more here](#)

Cracking the Whip



MEPs have accused Washington of foreign interference after US officials questioned the content of a debate on America’s role in ‘disinformation’. The EU’s diplomatic service, the European External Action Service, was initially listed among the “supporters” of a [‘Disinfo’](#) conference.

The event, organised by the EU-funded EU [DisinfoLab](#), included a panel asking whether the US had become a so-called ‘foreign information manipulation and interference’ (FIMI) threat to the EU. The sponsorship was withdrawn after contacts from the US State Department, according to [later reports](#).

While EU institutions describe ‘disinformation’ as false or misleading information, often linked to foreign state interests, the United States has [warned](#) that efforts to counter it can threaten freedom of speech. The Commission claims to fight foreign interference, but looks away as soon as its American master tells it to. So-called EU ‘sovereignty’, then, ends at the gates of the White House.

“Accountability-free zones”

European Ombudswoman Teresa Anjinho has sounded the alarm about “accountability-free zones” in the EU’s institutions and warned that mounting global crises cannot become an excuse for secrecy. As the EU Commission takes on more powers and responsibilities, it is also exercising “more discretion” about what it tells the public. Urgency is not a catch-all justification” she said, “We cannot ... have accountability-free zones.” According to Politico, von der Leyen and a close-knit circle of largely German advisers run the show, largely shunning scrutiny from the European Parliament and keeping a tight grip on all messaging and communication.

