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The government moves to abolish the Triple Lock - voters and opposition parties say No!



The Government is set to press ahead with plans to remove the triple lock governing overseas deployments of Irish troops in a move that would negate the State's long-standing policy of neutrality. Helen McEntee has brought the Defence (Amendment) Bill 2026 to Cabinet for approval. Under the change being proposed by McEntee, the approval of the UN Security Council would no longer be required for overseas deployment of Irish troops.

This move to abolish the Triple Lock mechanism represents a profound betrayal of the "solemn" commitments made to the Irish public during the Nice II (2002) and Lisbon II (2009) referendums. This mechanism was explicitly presented as an ironclad safeguard for Ireland's neutrality. The 2002 Seville Declaration, endorsed by the EU, was a binding commitment that Ireland would maintain this condition for its participation in EU security initiatives. By dismantling it, the government is violating an explicit "social contract" with the Irish people.

[Read more here](#)

Another coup by the EU



With a little publicised legal ruling, European Court of Justice (ECJ) judges have just pulled off a coup and have stripped us of much of our right to govern ourselves. To understand the enormity of this catastrophe, you have to look at a judgement delivered on April 21, 2026. In the case [Commission v Hungary \(C-769/22\)](#), the European Court of Justice (ECJ) was asked to weigh the "values" of the European Union ([Article 2 TEU](#)) against the "national identity" of a Member State ([Article 4\(2\) TEU](#)).

The Court ruled that Article 4(2) TEU, which guarantees respect for a nation's constitutional identity, only applies if that identity is "consistent with the values enshrined in Article 2 TEU." In a single, disdainful sentence, the judges declared that if the EU decides your laws violate its definition of "democracy" or "human rights," your national identity is legally invalid.

[Read more here](#)

Take action to keep the Triple Lock

Now is the time to contact your constituency government party TD/s – the opposition parties are all against abolition. Make sure you are familiar with the arguments outlined in the factsheets below and ask them to vote against any change to the Triple Lock.



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



Click on the link [here](#)

[The Neutrality Files](#) bring together detailed research and investigations into attempts by the arms industry, NATO states, and certain politicians to undermine and ultimately destroy our neutrality.



[This paper](#) from the Dáil Research Service examines the policy and legal contexts of neutrality along with the various Acts, EU referendums, domestic defence policy and international law framework set within the UN Charter. It then examines the latest developments in the EU's Common security and Defence Policy followed by an appraisal of the legislative proposal – the abolition of the Triple Lock. It concludes by presenting selected arguments for and against the proposal. The Paper contains copious links and footnotes and is a very valuable resource.

Our next protest



With the majority of Irish people still supporting the retention of the Triple Lock despite the relentless barrage of propaganda against it over the last months it is more important than ever to express solidarity with those members of the Oireachtas who support its retention. Cork City Council has now joined twelve other Councils who have voted to oppose abolition of the measure, which was brought to cabinet last week. We hope that you will join us on **Wednesday 17th June**, as the Dáil will be adjourned in July, though we will move to the EU Parliament Representation building then.

Preparing for the scrapping of the Triple Lock



For [MILEX 26](#), the EU's [premier crisis management](#) and rapid deployment live fire exercise in Spain, [Ireland's contribution](#) centers around the EUBG [2025/2026 force package](#). Ireland is contributing **10 staff officers and NCOs** directly to the Eurocorps Force Headquarters in Strasbourg. Irish personnel serve [across key planning and coordination domains](#), including Intelligence, Operations, Training, Logistics, Strategic Communications, and as Political Advisors to the [EUBG](#) (EU Battlegroups) Commander. This 10-person contingent operates alongside Eurocorps planners, who provide the core Command and Control architecture for the EU Force Headquarters during the exercise.

Alongside the Eurocorps staff, Ireland has contributed **182 soldiers** (primarily from the Dublin-based 2nd Brigade) to the broader EUBG force, forming a Mechanised Force Protection Company and a National Support Element. [MILEX 26](#) acts as a validation test for the EU's new [Rapid Deployment Capacity \(RDC\)](#), allowing the combined forces to rehearse autonomous crisis management.

Patrick Murphy: Ireland is preparing to go to war – and we can't do anything to stop it: <https://share.google/wTVB50iQhiluNzR8u>

Emily O'Reilly – EU's lack of transparency a threat to democracy



Emily O'Reilly, who served as European Ombudsman from 2013 to 2025, criticized the EU Commission under Ursula von der Leyen for what she described as an “elitist” and an “anti-democratic” approach to transparency. She argued that officials should not make regulations and decisions while withholding the information that informs them, warning that such practices undermine democratic accountability.

As ombudsman, O'Reilly was responsible for promoting openness within EU institutions, but her recommendations were not legally binding. She expressed frustration that the Commission frequently ignored her office's advice even though it was legally sound and repeatedly acted as though citizens could not be trusted with important information. But then, we all know that!

Martin proposes referendum to create new minister for the marine



Micheál Martin said ‘there's something missing where we don't have a stronger department of the marine. It probably wouldn't be the most popular constitutional referendum to suggest we need additional Cabinet seats but we do need to discuss it and debate it because it's a serious issue.'

It's all part of a projected naval expansion to protect the data centre's cables and contribute to the EU naval resources. No wonder JD Vance brought him on a naval tour which Martin described as an [“unforgettable day”](#).

Make your tea later – the data centres need that power!



A new EU law will aim to use artificial intelligence to boost efficient use of power as electricity demand threatens to overwhelm Europe's grids. The Commission said it will propose a new law later this year to accelerate the roll out of smart meters. It wants households to use less energy at peak times to reduce bills and take pressure off the grid, in preparation for an explosion of power demand from artificial intelligence data centers.

The plan, part of the Strategic Roadmap for Digitalisation and AI in the Energy Sector, was released as part of the EU tech sovereignty package. Data centers already account for 2.5 percent of EU energy use, the Commission said in the roadmap, and demand is expected to more than double over the next four years. According to the CSO, data centres account for **22%** of Ireland's total metered electricity consumption, exceeding the combined usage of all urban households (18%) and rural households (10%) nationwide. As the government and EU bet on AI and data centres, [Ireland shows the risk: higher electricity bills for households](#). [Read more here](#) and [here](#) about the cost to Irish households and there's a [report here](#)

Witch hunt among the brothers and sisters



When anonymous [letters alleging corruption](#) began appearing at a little-known EU advisory body, its first response was to launch a full-blown hunt for the whistleblower. The European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels, which has an annual budget of €165 million has been rocked by allegations that the body's secretary-general, handed out public contracts to her friends.

The first reaction at the top of the EU organisation was to attempt to catch the source of the claims so that the anonymous accuser could face disciplinary action, a secret note reveals. Our own [Séamus Boland](#), the president of the EESC, sent the note on 5 March marked "strictly confidential" to two security officials, instructing them to gather up all the 50 letters estimated to have been distributed, and "collect all elements that could help to identify the possible perpetrator". But people that expose wrongdoing, maladministration, fraud, or whatever it is, should not be prosecuted but celebrated.

[Read more here](#)

From 'Peace Project' to Arms Investor



In this Transnational Institute Factsheet, discover how the EU's military spending has expanded dramatically in recent years, reshaping priorities, budgets, and policies across the EU. Download the factsheet below for key figures, funding mechanisms, and insights into the shift from a self-described "peace project" to a major investor in the military.

[Factsheet 1 | EU Military Spending until 2027: From 'Peace Project' to Arms Investor](#)

Nine countries have now signed up for French nuclear cover



Norway has become the ninth European country to sign up for French nuclear cover which France bills as “forward deterrence,” a significant redefinition of what France’s nuclear weapons are for. Macron, promises to link threats to European allies to a French nuclear response even if the U.S. may disengage. All decision-making powers will remain in Paris, as will the control over nuclear weapons. In March, Macron 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.

Germany will participate in French nuclear exercises as soon as September, joining them in an observer role. Additionally, they will visit and learn about French nuclear weapons facilities and infrastructure. Norway, Germany and Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, Belgium and nuclear Britain have also signed up to the new French forward deterrence scheme. At around 290 warheads, the French nuclear arsenal is the fourth-largest in the world, after China, the U.S. and Russia, and ahead of Britain. Micheál Martin is now considering nuclear power facilities for Ireland. Let’s hope he doesn’t hear about this arrangement!

The EU military- industrial complex flourishes



EU military spending rose from €218 billion in 2021 to an estimated €381 billion in 2025, according to the European Defence Agency, or a 75% increase in just four years. Global military spending hit a record \$2.9 trillion that year, [with Europe as the main driver](#) — up 14% to \$864bn (€742bn), according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The EU’s [ReArm Europe Plan](#), formally Readiness 2030, aims to unlock €800bn in military investment, with the Commission raising up to €150bn on capital markets through a new instrument called [SAFE](#), the Security Action for Europe.

Now, [the escape clause in the Stability and Growth Pact](#) allows member states to increase military spending outside normal fiscal rules. A 1.5% GDP increase in defence budgets, the Commission estimates, could create nearly €650bn in fiscal space over four years and a handful of industries comprising the bulk of the EU military – industrial complex are reaping the rewards.

[Read more here](#)

Get them while they’re young



The Council will decide whether content creators invited to attend the European Council comply with EU values under a new pilot project, aimed at bringing social media influencers into leaders’ and ministers’ gatherings to engage citizens, particularly younger audiences. EU capitals will nominate the creators but importantly, creators must not have “published views against the EU values”. And we’re doing our bit: according to Helen McEntee, a child-friendly version of the presidency priorities will be published “so that this is relatable to all ages”. The kids will be enthralled!

The truth about Operation Sophia, Operation Irini and the Irish Naval Service - the evolution of our involvement



On May 25, minister for defence Helen McEntee “expressed regret” that a UN Security Council resolution for an EU naval force in the Mediterranean (EU-NAVFOR MED) had lapsed. Without it, there would be no legal basis for Irish troops to participate in the force. As they withdraw from the Mediterranean after more than a decade, it’s worth recalling the missions Irish troops participated in, and how they evolved from saving lives at sea to facilitating human rights violations and the erosion of international law.

Over the past decade, Ireland has gone from saving thousands of lives at sea to participating in missions that aid and abet gross human rights violations and advancing legislation to permit troop deployment to hostile military missions. Instead of sending our troops overseas to save lives, we may soon find they are being deployed to take them. [Read more here](#)

Brussels sold the electorate yet another pup



The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) was introduced with the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007 having been tacked on to the EU Constitution at the last minute. This initiative enables one million citizens of the Member States, with a minimum number of nationals from at least seven member states, to call directly on the Commission to propose a legal act (notably a Directive or Regulation) in an area where the member states have conferred powers onto the EU level.

During his time as Taoiseach, Brian Cowen led the government's campaign for the successful passage of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009. Throughout the campaign, he and his party actively promoted the Initiative as one of the treaty's major core benefits, presenting it as a way to give citizens a more direct say in EU policymaking and the Commission must listen and formally respond. We said at the time that it could just ignore a qualifying initiative. You can judge for yourself whether we were correct: 131 registered initiatives later and with just 13 responses, it seems that we were, and Brussels had sold the electorate yet another pup.

Importing occupation to the EU



Almost one in five Israeli-labelled food shipments entering the EU are actually from settlements in the occupied West Bank or from the Golan Heights, according to a new investigation with obvious implications for the Occupied Territories Bill.

For two decades, the EU’s position has been that it can trade freely with Israel but not the communities Israel has built on land captured from Egypt, Jordan and Syria in the 1967 war. As for settlements in the Palestinian territories, they have been condemned by supporters of a two-state solution as undermining any eventual Palestinian state. The [probe by the U.S.-based legal advocacy group Global Echo Litigation Center](#) concludes that the distinction often fails at the EU’s borders.

The EU's budgetary coup



The Multiannual Financial Framework; even for a body as jargon-prone as the EU, the phrase feels almost bewilderingly dull. Perhaps that's the point. For hidden amid the technical language of the EU's new budget is a kind of technocratic coup — one that promises more power for the Commission, less for member states, and which would ultimately make Brussels even less accountable than it already is today.

Over the past decade, the EU's institutional balance has already tilted heavily towards the Commission, which has extended its reach into areas once considered the preserve of national governments — from fiscal policy and public health to foreign affairs and defence. The mechanism has been consistent: each crisis — the sovereign debt crisis, Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ukraine war — has served as a pretext for the Commission to assume more authority, make “emergency” decisions and lock in permanent changes to the exercise of EU power. None of this has required formal treaty changes. It has occurred surreptitiously, outside the arena of democratic debate, through what scholars have called “integration by stealth”. The result has been a creeping “Commissionisation” and supranationalisation of European decision-making, with a corresponding erosion of national sovereignty and democratic accountability. [Read the excellent article by Thomas Fazi here](#)

People's Forum



A People's Forum on Peace and Neutrality will take place in Tailor's Hall in Dublin on 19th and 20th June. Over two days speakers from Ireland and overseas will come together in Dublin to discuss Irish neutrality

Legal experts will talk about how neutrality is a legal construct anchored in international law. We will also hear how Ireland's neutrality has allowed it to play an important role in peace-keeping globally. Meanwhile arms trade experts will detail how the global arms industry is highly profitable and is often instrumental in shaping government policy away from peace keeping and towards war making. Save the date and reserve your place for the conference on Eventbrite.

Iceland's Heimssýn flags increased EU military spending



Icelanders are heading to the ballot boxes on [29 August](#) to decide whether the country should move forward with accession talks to join the EU. Iceland applied for EU membership in 2009, but talks stalled in 2013 and the country later withdrew its application.

“Entering the EU is taking a big step away from democracy the way we know it,” said Haraldur Ólafsson, a physics professor and leader of Iceland's Heimssýn (worldview) movement which opposes EU membership. He sees this as one more reason to stay outside the bloc, as the demands for Iceland to invest in its military would grow significantly as the EU steps up military spending. And although Iceland is a founding NATO member, Ólafsson describes the requirements of the alliance as “basically zero compared to the requirements that the EU will make [in the future].” [Read more here](#)

The pope hits the nail on the head



In his speech to the Spanish parliament, Pope Leo has rejected the logic of military deterrence, arguing that although weapons may impose a temporary silence, they can never build a genuine and lasting peace.

“It is therefore a cause for concern that in various parts of the world – and in Europe as well – rearmament is once again being presented as an almost inevitable response to the fragility of the international situation. True security, however, stems from justice, patient dialogue, respect for international law and a policy capable of placing the lives of peoples above the interests that profit from war,” he said. And so say all of us – irrespective of our religious beliefs!

Ireland makes big spending lobbyists league thanks to Big Tech



Data [released](#) Corporate Europe Observatory shows that Berlin’s influence far outweighs any other capital, no matter how much cash U.S. tech firms might be throwing at consultants. German outfits account for 28 of the top 100 spenders. Military procurement has become a central political topic in Brussels but most defense spending is national, so “companies naturally devote a significant share of their lobbying effort to member states, where the contracts are awarded.”

Meta joins the chemicals lobby in the top spot, with tech companies also making up numbers two, three and four on the list; Amazon, Apple and Microsoft, respectively accounting for Ireland’s high placement in this category being surpassed only by the US. The fact that Big Tech collectively spent at least €73 million is a warning sign for democracy and Ireland plays a leading role.

ICTU comments on proposed Triple Lock abolition



Commenting on the Cabinet approval for the Defence Amendment Bill, Irish Congress of Trade Unions General Secretary Owen Reidy said: "Ireland's strong record of service on UN peacekeeping missions is something of which the Irish public are rightly proud. The country’s commitment to multilateralism and the international rule of law is a core tenet of our foreign policy.

"The Government's decision to move ahead with the Defence Amendment Bill, which would remove the triple lock, is therefore short-sighted, and would abandon these principles which have served Ireland well over the course of decades. While acknowledging the need for reform in the Security Council, removing the UN from this process weakens the guarantee that deployments carry formal legal sanction. At a moment when such institutions and processes are under attack, we should be proud to maintain our commitment to them. “The trade union movement urges them to reconsider this approach, and engage substantively with the Irish public on these matters.” ICTU policy is to oppose abolition of the Triple Lock!

