PEOPLE'S NEWS
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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 as part of the EU's training mission in the country.

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." Signalling a change in government policy, she added, "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.

The government's proposed troop deployment to Lebanon



What the Taoiseach and Minister Mc Entee are proposing for Irish troops: 'peace enforcement' and 'peace keeping' in a non - UN mandated EU 'support mission' to assist in the disarmament of Hezbollah, would directly support Israel's' war aims and territorial expansion. The EU has failed miserably to address Israel's genocide in Gaza and has continued to support Israel which is currently engaged in ethnically cleansing Sth Lebanon. An EU mission would hardly be neutral given its consistent support for Israel but in reality would be a continuation and expansion of its support, while the mission itself would essentially be based on a trilateral agreement between the US, Israel and the Lebanese government.

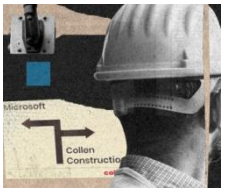
There can be no doubt but that this proposed deployment would put Irish troops in harm's way, as Hezbollah is a significant fighting force with local support. Just as importantly, it would signal the end of Ireland's policy of neutrality despite widespread support for its retention. If such a proposal is implemented, Ireland will be siding with Israel and doing its dirty work in Lebanon. The government can spin it any way it wants but in essence that is what our troops would be doing in our name, while sounding the death knell of neutrality.

The (attempted) return of former Commissioner Hogan



Former EU Commissioner Phil Hogan, who tried to impose water charges, has said he will spend a "significant six-figure sum" in his bid to become the director-general of the UN Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO). He can certainly afford it as he was in line for a golden handshake of as much as €300,000 after his resignation as EU commissioner. The government nominated Hogan for the position back in March, and he formally launched his campaign at the Department of Foreign Affairs, having been rehabilitated by Fine Gael. Hogan said he was "very confident" that he would be able to get the majority support of EU countries in his bid for the UN job.

Electrocutions, 'mental terror' and withheld wages: The exploited workers building Europe's data centres



Big Tech is selling a vision for a future fuelled by ubiquitous artificial intelligence, and Irish leaders have bought in wholesale. This investigation lifts the veil of secrecy hanging over Europe's booming data centre industry that many Irish companies are engaged in. It is a five-month investigation by Investigate Europe and media partners in nine countries revealing the harsh realities facing some of those working on the continent's vast AI infrastructure developments. Credit: Spoovio

That Dublin meeting and its significance



The recent Dublin meeting of the European Political Community took no decisions, issued no communiqué and therefore requires no ratification at national level. Its official themes—Ukraine, hybrid attack, technology, clean and affordable energy—were thematic sentiments, not commitments. Defenders call this approach being "frank and informal"; critics make a more realistic assessment and find nothing more than a costly talking shop where leaders can perform statesmanship before an international audience without having to return home to defend a single concrete measure. The accountability gap follows directly from the format. No output means: no accountability.

The real decision was taken elsewhere, the day before. The 2027 EU budget was finalised at €199.7 billion in commitments and €211.5 billion in payments; the next MFF (EU Budget) is being shaped around a military and space window of roughly €131 billion—about five times the outgoing European Defence Fund—with total militarily-relevant spending around €150 billion. Military spending has risen from about €214 billion in 2021 to €343 billion in 2024 and a projected €381 billion in 2025, a 78 per cent rise in four years. Dublin's theme of "strength" is therefore not rhetorical flourish but the description of a budgetary reality the summit existed to ratify without naming. Zelensky's drone co-production line with Ireland—military spending dressed as solidarity—fits the same pattern.
Read more here

Shameful



At a time when famine, war and deprivation stalk the globe, the government has proposed to cut €38 billion in foreign aid from the EU's next seven-year budget. The reduction represents a 17% cut to the figure proposed by the EU Commission in the initial 2028-2034 budget plan.

Ireland has long been one of the strongest proponents of development funding among the 27 EU states and Barry Andrews, Fianna Fáil MEP for Dublin serves as the Chair of the EU Parliament's Committee on Development (DEVE). Inexplicably, the government itself has been defending a 14% increase in aid spending in its 2027 national budget, making Ireland one of the only EU countries to increase spending in this area. Nonetheless, its proposal is nothing short of shameful.

FG calls for move from neutrality – 2003!

FINE GAEL

The party launched a new policy document in 2003 – updated from 2000 - called 'Beyond Neutrality', urging Irish membership of EU common defence arrangements. Party spokesman Gay Mitchell called neutrality a 'sham.' FG leader Enda Kenny said that a common defence policy is the next logical step in European integration and that, like it or not, Ireland is no longer neutral. The document is no longer accessible electronically!

Ireland's opportunity



American, Ukrainian and Russian negotiators have restarted peace talks and Jared Kushner, President Trump's special envoy, says the US is working on "a broader European security architecture" built on five goals: permanent security consultations, reliable crisis communications, greater military transparency, reciprocal measures to reduce escalation risks, and an enduring framework for long-term stability. The Russians agree, calling for a wider European security arrangement before a deal to end the Ukraine war but the missing goal is nuclear disarmament.

The elimination of nuclear weapons must be anchored in law that already exists. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, already signed or ratified by a global majority. On November 30th, countries meet at the UN for the treaty's first review conference. The Department of Foreign Affairs says that 'Promoting disarmament is one of five signature foreign policies for Ireland and builds upon Ireland's historic legacy in this area" This is Irelands' opportunity to make a significant impact on the world stage by seeking adherence to the Treaty that we had a central role in formulating and demanding that nuclear weapons be removed from the European sphere.

Read more here

The EU is now sanctioning its own "citizens" for "disinformation"



Eight EU subjects — not charged, not tried, not convicted — have been designated under the EU's "disinformation" and "hybrid threats" sanctions regime. The penalties are severe: asset freezes, travel bans, and a near-total prohibition on anyone in the EU paying, hiring, or lending to them. The latest batch was signed into force by High Representative Kaja Kallas at the recent Foreign Affairs Council meeting attended by Minister Helen McEntee. No prior charges. No trial. No court ruling.

The eight include one Irish national (Chay Bowes). You don't have to be supportive of Bowes' opinions or actions to be concerned about this development.

Procedurally, these designations collide head-on with the EU's own much vaunted Charter of Fundamental Rights. Sanctions handed down by executive ministers, with no judicial findings, bypass the separation of powers, the presumption of innocence (Article 48), and the right to a fair trial (Article 47). They also restrict freedom of expression (Article 11), freedom of movement (Article 45), and the rights to work and property (Articles 15 and 17). The Council frames the listings as a response to "Russian hybrid threats," and insists the measures are adopted "in line with the Charter of Fundamental Rights."

Read more here

Deported to Rwanda



The Taoiseach has said that Ireland has not "yet" decided whether it will join other EU countries in sending migrants to a deportation centre in Rwanda. Germany, Austria, Denmark, the Netherlands and Greece plan to jointly set up a deportation centre in Rwanda in 2027 for migrants who have exhausted their legal avenues to stay despite rights groups' concerns. The EU created the legal framework for such agreements with third countries this year. Europe, the 'continent of human rights', will ship 'unwanted foreigners' off to a completely unfamiliar third country whose language they do not speak and to which they have no ties. ... Asylum procedures lay down rules for deciding whether to grant protection or not. However, they do not cover how repatriation is to be carried out in the event of a negative outcome.

This is a matter for bilateral repatriation agreements, which in practice have to be painstakingly negotiated and are often immoral – like, for example, the talks with the Taliban. The EU now wants to rid itself of this unpleasant task and is passing on the problem to those directly affected, who are to be sent, like packages, to a far-away country. British courts have declared Rwanda an unsafe destination for refugees and halted the plan for an asylum centre there. This process is highly questionable from a human rights perspective. Migration can be managed – with humanity and resources.

Beyond time for the ICTU to act



The Biennial Delegate Conference of Connect – Ireland's largest craft union – has unanimously called upon The Irish Congress of Trade Unions to immediately implement the policies on Irish neutrality and the Triple Lock unanimously approved by delegates at the ICTU 2025 Biennial Delegate Conference. It further demanded that the government conduct a national referendum as a matter of democratic principle and respect for previous commitments made to the Irish people, before making any changes to or abolishing the Triple Lock mechanism.

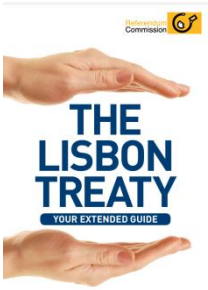
Ireland and Ukraine may do a deal on drones



Department of Defence (DOD) procurement officials have been talking directly to Ukrainian government officials after the country offered Ireland access to its drone technology. In July, and again at the recent conference in Dublin, both Micheál Martin and Zelenskyy mentioned that a deal was being worked on.

Discussions are at the earliest of stages but according to sources, DOD procurement officials have been talking directly to Ukrainian government officials. Zelenskyy said in Dublin that they were "ready for co-production with Ireland, and we expect our drone deal with Ireland to become operational."

The Triple Lock and the EU



EU Leaders met to discuss the outcome of the Irish Nice Referendum in Seville. Out of the meeting came declarations known as the Seville Declarations on the Treaty of Nice. As part of this declaration, the other EU governments accepted at annex III, an Irish declaration that spelled out the meaning of the Triple Lock, and the need for a UN mandate, cabinet approval, and the approval of Dáil Éireann to allow for Irish participation in activities of a military nature. While serving as an important political and diplomatic commitment acknowledged by all EU member states, the declaration itself was a political statement rather than a legally binding amendment to the EU treaties.

Following rejection of the Lisbon Treaty the European Council agreed that: The Treaty of Lisbon does not prejudice the security and defence policy of Member States, including Ireland's traditional policy of neutrality, and the obligations of Members States;

The concerns of the Irish people, which gave rise to the rejection of the Lisbon Treaty in 2008, were encapsulated in a legally binding protocol intended to be attached to the Lisbon Treaty entitled *"PROTOCOL on the concerns of the Irish people on the Treaty of Lisbon"* which was later registered at the United Nations. However, the protocol does not contain any reference to the Triple Lock but it is included the Electoral Commission Expanded booklet (pages 22-23) only and not in the information booklet that was delivered to households.

That's some Peace Facility!

The member states of the EU – including Ireland - have given the green light to the launch of €4.9 billion from the European Peace Facility (EPF), to fund new military assistance to Ukraine. Of this amount, €4.7 billion will be used to partially reimburse the Twenty-Seven for the weapons and military material already sent to Kiev, while another €230 million will be directed to strengthen the training of Ukrainian forces. These decisions bring the EU's overall support to Ukraine under the EPF to €10.8 billion, including €9.9 billion for the reimbursement of military aid delivered by member states' and €950 million for military training by EUMAM.

Lest we forget





PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT
GLUAISEACHT AN PHOBAIL

Protest against EU Militarisation

Wednesday 16th December at 1:00pm
Dáil Eireann, Kildare St

Keep the Triple Lock!

Shown above is our recent protest outside FF HQ on Mount St. Our next protest will be outside Dáil Eireann as it now seems certain that a vote will be taken sometime on or around that date on the abolition of the Triple Lock.

Lobbyists seek to weaken 'Forever Chemicals' regulation

The EU's attempt to restrict so-called "forever chemicals" (PFAS) is facing a coordinated industry push for exemptions that could leave the ban badly weakened, a report by Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) has revealed. It comes as the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) prepares its final assessment of the proposed ban, the last scientific step before the Commission makes a decision. The commission has signalled that it favours banning PFAS in some consumer products but may take a softer line on industrial uses; semiconductors, batteries and clean-tech manufacturing. But since von der Leyen's second term as commission president began, industry lobbyists have met the commission at least 37 times to discuss PFAS. That amounts to at least one meeting every third week, almost entirely with the most senior officials.

Over the past 10 years, the PFAS pollution crisis has got bigger. As its name implies, once created, they last forever in water, soil, and human bodies bringing a risk of cancer genetic effects etc.

President Connolly outlines her position on Triple Lock legislation



In an interview on TG4 current affairs programme 7Lá, President Catherine Connolly strongly defended Ireland's military neutrality while clarifying her constitutional limits regarding the Government's plan to abolish the Triple Lock.

Her key points on the programme included: Noting that her personal opposition to scrapping the Triple Lock was already well known from her time as a TD, she stressed that as President, she will examine any legislation put before her carefully, and her role is strictly limited to considering whether a bill conflicts with the Constitution; She defended Ireland's policy of military neutrality, describing it as "extremely important" for a small country seeking to use its voice on the international stage; She expressed concern over the growing international emphasis on rearmament and military spending, stating that there is currently inadequate investment in peace building.

Here she is speaking on the issue in the Dáil in 2024

EU pesticide deregulation is bad for you



An overwhelming majority of more than 7,000 people across France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Romania and Spain oppose plans by the EU to weaken the regulation of pesticides or expand their use, according to a YouGov poll. Unlimited pesticide approval stands at a mere four to six percent.

The survey findings are at odds with the direction of the "Food and Feed Safety" proposal tabled by the EU Commission last December and, in particular, of leading MEPs who want to deregulate more than the commission. The commission proposal would make unlimited approvals for pesticide active substances the norm, scrapping the regular safety reviews that have allowed 54 harmful substances to be banned since the EU pesticide regulation of 2011. Under these pesticides are approved for a limited period and must be reassessed every 10 to 15 years.

It is clear that unlimited pesticide approvals have no public support, and that the EU's push to de-regulate once again shows the gap between EU elites and the people while confirming the power of lobby groups in Brussels.