

EU NEWS YOU CAN USE

European Commission in Ireland



In this issue

- Top News
- Statistic of the week
- Calls for Tender/Proposals
- Other news
- Agenda

Top News

Celebrating 75 Years of unity and solidarity in Dublin on Europe Day 2025

On 9 May 2025, the European Commission Representation in Ireland, the European Parliament Liaison Office in Ireland and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Ireland are delighted to host a series of events for Europe Day on the theme 'Democracy in Action' in Europa Experience, 11 Chatham St, Dublin, D02 VP46. The day marks the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration and serves as a reminder of the European Union's commitment to unity, democracy, and solidarity. The celebrations start at 12:30 pm, and include live music performance, a photo booth, a prize wheel game, face painting, a film screening, and an exhibition of Polish Children's Book Illustrations in the Europa Gallery. No booking is required.



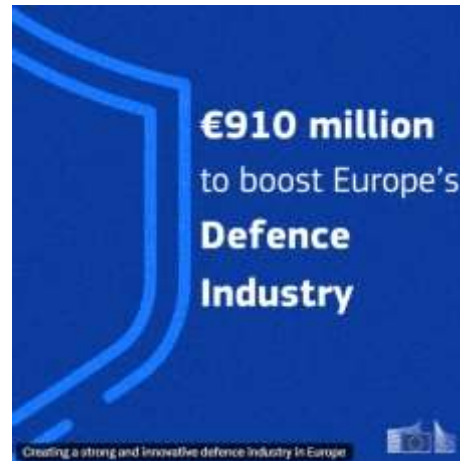
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[Main URL](#)

[more](#)

Commission mobilises €910 million to boost European defence and close capability gaps

The Commission is investing €910 million under the 2024 edition of the European Defence Fund (EDF) to create a strong and innovative defence industry in Europe. These investments aim to close key capability gaps through innovation and collaboration across European science and industry. For the first time, Ukrainian defence industries can be associated to EDF projects. The strengthened cooperation between the Ukrainian and European defence industries, builds on outreach efforts by the EU Defence Innovation Office in Kyiv to foster closer ties and to further integrate Ukraine into the European defence industrial base, reinforcing shared security and innovation objectives. These EDF investments will boost Europe's defence industry, in line with the Commission's ReArm Europe Plan/Readiness 2030 to strengthen pan-European defence capabilities, and the Joint White Paper on European Defence Readiness 2030, framing a new approach to defence and identifying investment needs.

[more](#)

For every euro invested Horizon Europe generates up to €11 in economic gains

Horizon Europe, the EU's flagship research and innovation programme for 2021-2027, is proving to be a major driver of economic and societal benefits. For every euro of costs to EU society, the programme is expected to generate

up to six euros in benefits for EU citizens by 2045. In terms of economic growth, every euro of EU contribution is estimated to generate up to €11 in GDP gains by 2045, according to an evaluation of the Commission released today. With a total budget of €93.5 billion, Horizon Europe stands at the heart of European competitiveness and innovation strength.

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[more](#)

Other news

An EU-wide debate on the future of European budget

In 2025, the Commission will present a proposal for a new European long-term budget starting in 2028, which will then be decided by the European Parliament and Member States. The European long-term budget requires the unanimous approval of all its Member States, and the majority of Members of the European Parliament. This is an opportunity to agree on a strong and modern European budget fit for our ambitions. Contribute your ideas, proposals, and recommendations for what the priorities of the EU long-term budget should be. Your insights from this discussion will feed into the work of the European Citizens' Panel and be detailed in a comprehensive Final Report. They will also inspire the next Multiannual Financial Framework proposal, to be presented in July 2025. This is an opportunity EU citizens to directly contribute to decisions that impact millions of people across Europe.

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[more](#)

EU pledges over €300 million in ocean conservation efforts at Our Ocean Conference in Busan

The European Union has announced €301,485,000 in EU funding to support actions in ocean conservation efforts during 'Our Ocean' Conference in Busan, in the Republic of Korea. This year's conference, celebrating its 10th anniversary, showcased the accomplishments, and best practices stemming from the voluntary commitments made by the global ocean community over the past decade. Under the umbrella of 'Digital Oceans', the conference convened to explore the intersection of technology and ocean conservation, with a focus on six critical areas - sustainable blue economy, marine pollution, marine protected areas, digital oceans, sustainable fisheries, and ocean and climate change.

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[more](#)

Commission offers 17 countries the possibility to purchase over 27 million influenza vaccine doses

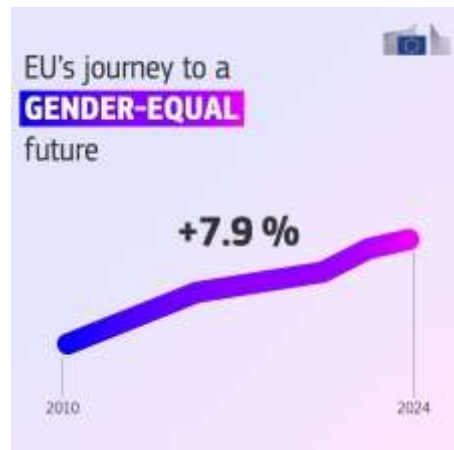
The European Union is strengthening its preparedness for a potential flu pandemic. A new joint procurement contract, signed by the European Commission, through the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority, offers 17 countries the possibility to purchase up to 27,403,200 pandemic influenza vaccine doses. The agreement, concluded with pharmaceutical company Seqirus UK Ltd., secures supplies of Foclivia, a vaccine to protect against flu when a pandemic has been officially declared by the World Health Organization or the European Union. A flu pandemic occurs when a new type (strain) of flu virus can spread easily from person to person because people have no immunity against it. While it is difficult to predict an influenza pandemic, today's joint procurement framework contract is part of the Commission's wider work on strengthening EU-level preparedness and response to protect the health of citizens.

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[more](#)

Statistic of the week

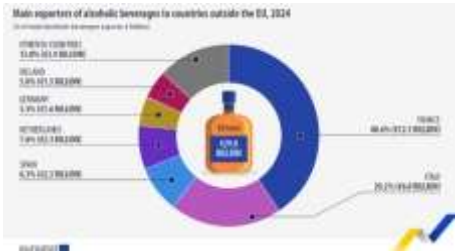
The EU's overall score in Gender Equality Index has improved by 7.9 points

Since 2010, the Gender Equality Index has set a benchmark for equality between women and men to guide decision-makers on policies and goals for a more balanced and inclusive society across the EU by highlighting what is working and where, and what is not working. The Gender Equality Index score for the European Union is 71 out of 100 points. This marks an incremental 0.8-point improvement on the 2023 Index score and an increase of 7.9 points in total since 2010. With a score of 73.4 out of 100, Ireland ranks 9th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index 2024, 2.4 points higher than the EU score. Ireland score the highest in the domain of health (94.6 points) and ranks 1st among all Member States. Ireland ranks 23rd in the domain of time, losing 17 positions in the ranking compared to 2015.

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[See also](#)[Ireland in 2024 edition](#)[more](#)

EU exports of alcoholic beverages up by 10.9% in 2024

EU exports of alcoholic beverages have reached 29.8 billion in 2024, up 10.9% from 2019, according to recently published Eurostat data. Wine accounted for over half of these exports, followed by spirits and liqueurs, and beer. France led the EU in alcohol exports to non-EU countries, with €12.1 billion (40.6%), followed by Italy (€6.0 billion, 20.2%), and Spain (€2.5 billion, 8.3%). The Netherlands (€2.3 billion, 7.6%), Germany (€1.6 billion, 5.3%), and Ireland (€1.5 billion, 5.0%) were also significant exporters. The remaining €3.9 billion (13%) came from other EU countries. France’s exports were largely wine and spirits, while Italy and Spain also focused on wine. The Netherlands mainly exported beer, and Ireland stood out for its premium spirits, such as whiskey and cream liqueurs. Ireland, though a smaller exporter by value, continues to strengthen its international profile through its globally recognised spirit brands, particularly in North America and Asia.



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[Main URL](#)

more

Agenda

Monday 5 May to Thursday 8 May: European Plenary session in Strasbourg

Daily agendas for this session of the European Parliament can be found at the link below.



permalink

[Main URL](#)

more

Wednesday 7 May to Thursday 8 May: Informal meeting of foreign affairs ministers - Gymnich

The meetings of EU foreign ministers in the Gymnich format take place once every six months and are informal in nature. This creates an opportunity for more open discussion and reflection on strategic issues. On 7-8 May 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Radosław Sikorski, together with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas, will organise an informal meeting of EU foreign ministers in Gymnich format in Warsaw. Meetings of this kind have been held regularly since 1974, and their purpose is an informal and open discussion among ministers on strategic issues.

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[more](#)

Wednesday 14 May: The Digital Services Act: An Initial Review (IIEA Event)

The Digital Services Act (DSA) is a landmark European regulation which seeks to protect Europe's values and democratic principles in the online space, and to help counter the dissemination of illegal and harmful online content. The DSA entered into force in November 2022 and began to fully apply across the EU from February 2024. At this hybrid event, a panel of experts will discuss the implementation of the DSA to date and will assess the ongoing debates relating to various features of the DSA. The panel will also discuss the opportunities and challenges that may lie ahead for the future of DSA enforcement. The panel for this event will include: John Evans, the Digital Services Commissioner, Coimisiún na Meán Dr Eileen Culloty, Deputy Director of the DCU Institute for Future Media, Democracy, and Society (FUJO); Coordinator of the Ireland Hub of the European Digital Media Observatory Professor Natali Helberger, Distinguished University Professor of Law and Digital Technology, University of Amsterdam; Member of the project team at the Digital Services Act Observatory

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[more](#)

Thursday 15 May: Artificial Intelligence: How will Europe innovate? (European Movement Ireland and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung UK & Ireland event)

This event will explore the theme of Artificial Intelligence, covering topics such as Artificial Intelligence in Europe, the Future of AI and the Regulation of AI in practice. The event will open with a welcome address from Dr. Canan Atilgan, Director Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, UK & Ireland. This will be followed by an expert panel discussion and an audience Q&A moderated by Noelle O Connell, CEO, European Movement Ireland. Date: Thursday, 15th May 2025 Time: 12:00 – 13:15 (Irish time) – Registration from 11:45 and the event will be followed by a networking lunch Venue: European Commission Representation in Ireland, 12-14 Mount Street Lower, Dublin 2, D02 W710 Welcome Address: Dr. Canan Atilgan, Director Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, UK & Ireland Panel Speakers: Stephanie Anderson, Public Policy Manager, Meta Ireland Martin Bailey, Head of Unit, Digital Policy Development & Coordination, DG CNECT, European Commission Kai Zenner, Head of Office and Digital Policy Adviser for MEP Axel Voss

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[more](#)

Calls for Tender/Proposals

EU funding worth €13.5 million to support pan-European reporting

The European Commission has launched a call for proposals to support independent reporting on EU affairs by pan-European outlets, with a budget of €13.5 million. In its second year running, the call aims to enhance the quantity, quality and impact of reporting on EU affairs in as many languages and Member States as possible. It is split into three topics: increasing the coverage and availability of audiovisual news on EU affairs from European perspectives; developing international, audiovisual news media offers in EU countries where media pluralism, market plurality and content diversity can improve and enhancing access to reliable online information. The deadline for applications is 13 June. Applicants, such as interested media organisations and developers, can apply to more than one topic. Grant agreements are expected to be signed in September, for projects to start running from October 2025.

[permalink](#)[Main URL](#)[more](#)

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