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European Commission in Ireland



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Top News

EU White Paper on Defence discussed at an event in Dublin

On 11 June, the European Commission Representation in Ireland organised a public event in partnership with the Institute of International and European Affairs, to bring focus to the White Paper for Defence Readiness 2030. The event included a key-note address by the Minister for European Affairs and Defence, Thomas Byrne and the participation of Guillaume de la Brosse, Head of Unit for Defence Policy and Innovation at the European Commission. Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland Peter Power has participated in the event.



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Statement by President von der Leyen with HR/VP Kallas on the 18th package of sanctions against Russia

"We want peace for Ukraine. Despite weeks of diplomatic attempts, despite President Zelensky's offer of an unconditional ceasefire, Russia continues to bring death and destruction to Ukraine. Russia's goal is not peace, it is to impose the rule of might. Therefore, we are ramping up pressure on Russia. Because strength is the only language that Russia will understand (...). Our message is very clear: this war must end. We need a real ceasefire, and Russia has to come to the negotiating table with a serious proposal. As it is up to today not showing willingness to achieve peace, we will step up pressure on Russia, including through further robust sanctions. Therefore, we are now proposing an 18th package of hard-biting sanctions. We are targeting two sectors. Russia's energy sector. And Russia's banking sector. We are widening export bans and controls, and we are strengthening the anti-circumvention measures."

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Joint statement on the negotiations for an EU-UK Agreement in respect of Gibraltar

European Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič, Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs José Manuel Albares and UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy, together with the Chief Minister of Gibraltar Fabian Picardo, met in Brussels on Wednesday 11 June. Building on significant progress achieved in the previous political meetings in 2024 and on intensive work of the negotiating teams since then to solve outstanding issues, today's discussions resulted in a conclusive political agreement on the core aspects of the future Agreement between the EU and the UK in respect of Gibraltar. The future Agreement is without prejudice to the respective legal positions of Spain and the United Kingdom with regard to sovereignty and jurisdiction.

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Other news

Commission updates list of high-risk countries to strengthen international fight against financial crime

The European Commission has updated its list of high-risk jurisdictions presenting strategic deficiencies in their national anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regimes. EU entities covered by the AML framework are required to apply enhanced vigilance in transactions involving these countries. This is important to protect the EU financial system. The updated list takes into account the work of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and in particular its list of "Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring". As a founding member of FATF, the Commission is closely involved in monitoring the progress of the listed jurisdictions, helping them to fully implement their respective action plans agreed with FAFT. Alignment with FATF is important for upholding the EU's commitment to promoting and implementing global standards.

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Commission reports on the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum at halfway mark

On 11 June 2025, the Commission is reporting on the state of play on the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, adopted in June 2024. Half-way through the transition period, important progress has been made both at EU level and by Member States, but further efforts are needed to address remaining challenges and ensure the EU's new robust migration management system is fully operational in June 2026. The Commission and EU Agencies Frontex, EUAA and eu-LISA are supporting Member States, including through practical guidance, new tools and targeted support. In May, an additional €3 billion has been made available from the EU budget to help implement the Pact and support Member States hosting displaced persons from Ukraine. The Commission calls on Member States to continue their efforts to ensure that the implementation of the Pact will be a success. While progress is being made at technical level, sustained political engagement and ownership at national level remain essential to address the identified challenges effectively, to achieve full readiness by mid-next year. The next implementation report will be published in October 2025 as part of the first Annual Report on Migration and Asylum.

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EU addressing military mobility challenges

To improve the movement of military troops, equipment and assets across the European Union and beyond, the European Commission and the EU's High Representative, have started discussions with stakeholders to develop a Military Mobility Package. This package will address existing infrastructure bottlenecks, procedural obstacles, and capability gaps. It forms part of broader efforts to strengthen the EU's defence readiness, following the publication of the Joint White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030. The package is expected to present strategic objectives, harmonise national procedures and enhance infrastructure resilience. These measures will streamline military movements across Europe while integrating military needs with broader EU policies such as transport, energy, and taxation. For this purpose, the Commission will propose a joint communication, a regulation and amendments to existing EU laws. The initiative reflects the Commission and the European External Action Service's (EEAS) commitment to working with EU Member States to advance military mobility through investments and policy reforms.

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Statistic of the week

Ireland among the EU countries most reliant on the US dollar

In 2024, the euro remained the most used currency for extra-EU exports, accounting for 51.7% of the total, followed by the US dollar (31.4%), Eurostat data shows. However, Ireland stood out as one of the most US dollar-reliant economies, using it in 69% of exports, the joint-highest share alongside Cyprus. For imports, the US dollar was also dominant in Ireland, with just 21% of imports invoiced in euro, the lowest share among all EU Member States. This contrasts sharply with countries like Slovenia, where the euro was used in over 80% of both exports and imports. The use of other currencies was also notable in Ireland, reaching 15% for imports, one of the highest in the EU. These figures reflect Ireland's strong trade ties with non-eurozone partners, particularly the US, and its distinctive position within the EU's trade landscape.


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Cigarette consumption of males aged 15 or over in Ireland is among the lowest in the EU

In 2023, 28% of males in the EU, aged 15 years or over, reported that they currently smoke, according to Eurostat data. The highest percentage can be seen in Bulgaria (49%) and Latvia (48%). Smoking prevalence in males among EU Member States is lowest in Sweden (9%) and Netherlands (13%). Ireland ranks as one of the countries with the lowest percentage of cigarette consumption, with 16% of males aged 15 and over reported to consume cigarettes.


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Agenda

Monday 16 June to Thursday 19 June: Plenary Session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg

The agenda is available at the link below.

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Thursday 19 June: Our Dollar, Your Problem: An Insider's View of Seven Turbulent Decades of Global Finance, and the Road Ahead (IIEA Event)

For the past 80 years, the US dollar has held the status of the world's primary reserve currency. However, following President Trump and his administration's policies, this status currently looks at risk. In his address to the IIEA, Professor Kenneth Rogoff will discuss his new book *Our Dollar, Your Problem: An Insider's View of Seven Turbulent Decades of Global Finance, and the Road Ahead*. Professor Rogoff will illustrate how the US Dollar reached its current status as the world's primary reserve currency. He will also discuss the challenges it faces from the likes of crypto and the Chinese yuan. Professor Rogoff will also consider how the current US Administration's policies will impact the dollar's role in the world economy.

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Thursday 19 June: 'United in Diversity: An Evening of Storytelling' (EM Ireland event)

This event will spotlight the voices and experiences of different communities, with a special focus on stories of immigration, identity, and belonging. Through these shared narratives, we aim to foster deeper understanding of the European Union's core values, promote inclusive dialogue, and encourage meaningful public engagement in shaping the future of the EU. In a time of increasing misinformation, this event also seeks to reach new audiences and provide a platform for authentic, lived experiences—countering divisive narratives and building a more connected, informed society. The event will take place in Third Space, Smithfield, Dublin, D08 P440 from 19:15 to 20:30.



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Thursday 19 June: Eurofound Annual Lecture - Living and working in Europe 2025

Eurofound's will hold its third Annual Lecture 'Living and working in Europe 2025' on 19 June in Dublin with guest speaker Enrico Giovannini, professor of Economic statistics and of Sustainable development at the University of Rome 'Tor Vergata'. This lunchtime event is hosted by Thomas Byrne TD, Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and at the Department of Defence, and Ivailo Kalfin, Executive Director of Eurofound, to celebrate Eurofound's 50th anniversary – five decades of supporting better policies for a strong social Europe.



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Tuesday 24 June: Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority Info Day in Dublin: Connecting stakeholders for a safer future

The HERA Info Days aim to present the main strands of work of the European Commission's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority, showcase its success stories, and pinpoint funding opportunities in the field. Participants in HERA's Info Day in Dublin will get the chance to interact with HERA, learn more about funding schemes of relevance, forge fruitful partnerships and network with other stakeholders to share ideas and nurture collaboration. The event will feature Q&A sessions to engage with the participants. Find out more at the link below.

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Job opportunities

12/06/2025

New Vacancy for HR Professionals at eu-LISA in Tallinn, Estonia

Position: Human Resources Professional (AST3) Function Group: AST3 (Temporary Staff) Department/Unit/Sector: Corporate Services Department / Human Resources Unit / Talent Strategy and Acquisition Sector Location: Tallinn (Estonia) Job Description: The ideal candidate will be responsible managing the employee life cycle initiatives, including but not limited to talent attraction, recruitment, onboarding and other talent management activities. The candidate will collaborate closely with hiring managers and selection committees to attract and identify top talent while optimising recruitment processes, enhancing employer branding, and leveraging HR technology (see more details in the vacancy notice). Deadline for Applications: 30 June 2025, 11:59:00 AM CET / 12:59:00 PM EET

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Calls for Tender/Proposals

Tender No. EC-COMM/DUB/2025/MVP/0317 - Framework contract for provision of temporary workers services

The European Commission Representation in Dublin wishes to put in place a framework contract for provision of temporary workers services. Entities wishing to take part in the proceedings are invited to indicate their interest by Wednesday 18/06/2025. The proceedings will be conducted via the e-Tendering platform available at the link below.

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Tender No. EC-COMM/DUB/2025/LVP/0316 - Framework contract for provision of telephony services

The European Commission Representation in Dublin wishes to put in place a framework contract for provision of telephony services (Mobile and virtual landlines). Entities wishing to take part in the proceedings are invited to indicate their interest by Wednesday 18/06/2025. The proceedings will be conducted via the e-Tendering platform available at the link below.

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