

## EU NEWS YOU CAN USE

European Commission in Ireland



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### Top News

#### **G7 Leaders' statement on recent developments between Israel and Iran**

We, the leaders of the G7, reiterate our commitment to peace and stability in the Middle East. In this context, we affirm that Israel has a right to defend itself. We reiterate our support for the security of Israel. We also affirm the importance of the protection of civilians. Iran is the principal source of regional instability and terror. We have been consistently clear that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon. We urge that the resolution of the Iranian crisis leads to a broader de-escalation of hostilities in the Middle East, including a ceasefire in Gaza. We will remain vigilant to the implications for international energy markets and stand ready to coordinate, including with like-minded partners, to safeguard market stability.



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#### **Commission proposes simplification to speed up defence investments in the EU**

The European Commission proposed on 17 June measures to speed up defence investments and production to make the EU more responsive to today's security challenges, as outlined in the Commission's White Paper for European Defence-Readiness 2030. The measures aim to help Member States and industry scale up defence capabilities and infrastructure to reach the levels of readiness required to prepare for and thereby deter a high intensity conflict. The measures reduce red tape, facilitate investments in defence capabilities and provide greater predictability to industry. They also make it easier to access EU funding.



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#### **European Commission refers IRELAND, BULGARIA and PORTUGAL to the Court of Justice of the European Union for not complying with the Terrorist Content Online Regulation**

The European Commission decided to refer Ireland (INFR(2022)2121), Bulgaria (INFR(2022)2113) and Portugal (INFR(2022)2129) to the Court of Justice of the

European Union for failing to comply with certain obligations from the Regulation on the dissemination of terrorist content online ("TCO Regulation" - Regulation (EU) 2021/784). The TCO Regulation, which became applicable on 7 June 2022, requires that terrorist content in the EU is taken down by online platforms within one hour upon receipt of a removal order issued by Member States' authorities. This helps to counter the spread of extremist ideologies online – which is key for preventing attacks and addressing radicalisation – while safeguarding fundamental rights. The Commission considers that Ireland, Bulgaria and Portugal have failed to comply with one or more obligations under the TCO Regulation.

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## Other news

### The EU budget continued to deliver and respond to crises in 2024

The EU budget delivered results on key priorities and responded to crises in 2024, according to the Commission's Annual Management and Performance Report (AMPR). In 2024, among many achievements, the EU budget supported the green and digital transitions, contributed to strengthening EU defence capabilities, provided unwavering support to Ukraine, and helped respond to the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East. A significant share of these results was made possible by the historic mid-term revision of the long-term EU budget in February 2024, which included for the first time the revision of expenditure ceilings. In addition, the Commission's report on the first year of operation of the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP), released today, is showcasing the added-value of the EU budget in promoting growth and innovation.

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### CETA evaluation shows strong economic and social benefits

A study published on 16 June found that the EU and Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) boosted trade exports and diversified supply chains across all EU Member States. The study – carried out by independent experts, as part of the Commission's commitment to evidence-based policy making – provides solid proof that open, rules-based, predictable and co-operative trade works. Direct benefits resulting from the CETA since the start of its provisional application in 2017 include a 71% increase in bilateral trade in goods and services between the EU and Canada (from €72.2 billion in 2016 to €123 billion in 2023); a 64% increase in EU goods exports and a 81% increase in EU services exports to Canada[1]; and an increased the EU's gross domestic product (GDP), which has become €3.2 billion higher each year (€1.3 billion each year for Canada's GDP).

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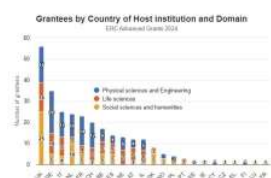
## European Commission calls on IRELAND to fulfil the obligations on the marketing and use of explosives precursors

The European Commission decided to open an infringement procedure by sending a letter of formal notice to Ireland (INFR(2025)2053) for failing to comply with certain obligations under the Regulation on the marketing and use of explosives precursors (Regulation (EU) 2019/1148). The Regulation establishes EU-wide rules regarding substances and mixtures that could be misused to make homemade explosives. It limits the availability of those substances or mixtures to the general public and requires any suspicious transactions involving the substances to be reported to the appropriate authorities. The Commission considers that Ireland failed to comply with a number of obligations under the Regulation

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## Two Irish researchers from UCD receive ERC Advanced Grants totalling €5m

Two researchers from University College Dublin have been awarded €2.5 million each under the European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grants scheme to pursue projects on the platform economy and gravitational waves. The UCD awardees are among 281 researchers across Europe to receive grants worth a total of €721 million. The competition attracted a total of 2,534 proposals

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## Europe and Australia commit to Security and Defence Partnership

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa met Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and agreed to start negotiations on a Security and Defence Partnership (SDP) at the G7 Leaders' Summit in Alberta, Canada. The Partnership will provide a framework for current and future cooperation including in areas such as defence industry, cyber and counter-terrorism. Existing SDPs the EU has with other countries include cooperation on cyber, countering hybrid threats, maritime security, non-proliferation and disarmament, space and economic security.

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## Commission proposes to integrate Ukraine into the EU Roaming area in 2026

The Commission proposes to integrate Ukraine into the EU Roaming area as from January 2026. This will enable Ukrainians to call, text and use their mobile data from Ukrainian phone numbers in the 27 EU countries at no extra cost, and extend the same benefits to Europeans who may be in Ukraine. Commission President von der Leyen said: "We want Ukrainian citizens to stay connected to their loved ones across the EU, as well as in their home country. That's why we propose that Ukraine join our roaming family. Once more, we reaffirm our continued commitment to stand by Ukraine and its citizens." Roaming is the first area where the EU would extend internal market treatment to Ukraine. In practice, this means that travellers from Ukraine visiting the EU, and travellers from the EU visiting Ukraine will not pay any extra roaming fees. The use of all mobile services, including calls, SMS messages and data will be charged at domestic rates. The agreement also ensures consumers are entitled to the same mobile network quality and speed as at home and that access to emergency services is free of charge.



*Commission President von der Leyen said: "We want Ukrainian citizens to stay connected to their loved ones across the EU, as well as in their home country. That's why we propose that Ukraine join our roaming family. Once more, we reaffirm our continued commitment to stand by Ukraine and its citizens."*

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## Commission welcomes political agreement on a stronger and more flexible visa suspension mechanism

The European Commission welcomes the provisional political agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Council on the revision of the visa suspension mechanism, proposed by the Commission in October 2023. The revised rules are a further step in effectively deterring and addressing situations of abuse of visa-free travel. Visa-free travel is a key pillar of the Schengen area, bringing economic and societal benefits to Europe. At the same time, the evolving geopolitical context has brought new challenges linked to visa-free travel. These include increased irregular arrivals due to the lack of alignment with the EU's visa policy, investor citizenship schemes in visa-free countries, or hybrid threats, such as state-sponsored instrumentalisation of migrants. The new rules agreed today will allow for swifter and more decisive action to address these challenges.

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## Commission proposes gradual phase-out of Russian gas and oil imports into the EU

The EU will gradually and effectively stop the import of Russian gas and oil by the end of 2027, under a legislative proposal put forward by the European Commission today. This will end the EU's exposure to market and economic security risks due to dependency on Russian fossil fuels, and ultimately boost the Union's energy independence and competitiveness. Today's legislative proposal follows the REPowerEU Roadmap, which the Commission adopted last month. It sets out an EU-wide plan to phase-out Russian gas imports in a gradual and well-coordinated manner, in a spirit of solidarity, while pursuing the clean transition. Today's proposal has been designed to preserve the security of the EU's energy supply, while limiting any impact on prices and markets, as explained in the accompanying analysis. The remaining Russian gas volumes can be phased out without significant economic impact or risks to security of supply, due to the availability of sufficient alternative suppliers in the global gas market, a well interconnected Union gas market and the availability of sufficient import infrastructure in the EU. In addition, today's proposal has built-in safeguards to re-

spond to the reality of the gas markets while providing companies with a solid legal framework.

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### Commission accepts commitments offered by AliExpress under the Digital Services Act and takes further action on illegal products

The European Commission has taken two major steps in its investigation concerning the compliance of AliExpress with the Digital Services Act (DSA). The DSA and the actions taken today aim to ensure user and consumer safety online. First, the Commission has accepted and made binding a series of commitments offered by AliExpress to settle a number of concerns, such as the platform's transparency on advertising and recommender systems. Second, following its in-depth investigation, the Commission preliminarily found AliExpress in breach of its obligation to assess and mitigate risks related to the dissemination of illegal products under the DSA.

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### European Commission issues €5 billion in its 6th syndicated transaction of 2025

The European Commission issued €5 billion of EU-Bonds in its 6th syndicated transaction for 2025 on 17 June. The single-tranche transaction concerned a €5 billion tap of the EU-Bond maturing on 4 October 2039. The 15-year bond was priced 99.209% with a re-offer yield of 3.445%, while bids received were in excess of €93 billion, which equals oversubscription rates of approximately 19-times. The proceeds of the transaction will be used to finance EU policy programmes, most notably in the context of NextGenerationEU and support to Ukraine.

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### Commission proposes measures to revive the EU Securitisation Framework

The European Commission adopted on 17 June a package of measures to make the EU securitisation framework simpler and more fit for purpose. The proposed measures seek to facilitate securitisation activity in the EU while continuing to safeguard financial stability. A stronger and simpler securitisation framework can help channel more investments into the real economy - supporting economic growth, innovation and job creation across the EU. This review is the first legislative initiative proposed under the Savings and Investments Union (SIU) Strategy.

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## Commission welcomes political agreement to simplify and strengthen the carbon border adjustment mechanism

The European Commission welcomes the provisional political agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Council today on the Commission proposal to simplify and strengthen the EU's carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM). On 26 February 2025, the Commission proposed simplifications to the CBAM regulation to reduce administrative burdens for businesses, while maintaining the functionality of the CBAM measure. The key aspect of the proposal is a new exemption threshold of 50 tonnes for CBAM goods.

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## Commission welcomes agreement on more efficient remedies for citizens against the unlawful use of their personal data

The Commission welcomes the political agreement reached by the European Parliament and the Council on the Commission proposal from July 2023 to ensure better and faster cooperation between data protection authorities (DPAs) when enforcing the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The new rules - which will apply to cases involving multiple Member States - will lead to quicker remedies for citizens if their data is misused, and more legal certainty for businesses. They will make clear what to do if citizens have to submit a complaint, ensure that the rights of all parties under investigation are equally respected, and that the complainants are appropriately involved in the process. Additionally, we will have new, concrete rules on cooperation between DPAs and fixed deadlines to deliver a draft decision, as well as to streamline dispute resolution and ensure greater transparency.



*Commissioner for Justice, Michael McGrath, said "Enforcing data protection rules effectively safeguards individuals and ensures fair competition for businesses. The Commission introduced this regulation in direct response to requests from data protection authorities and stakeholders. It is designed to eliminate bottlenecks, allowing data protection authorities to enforce and address cross-border cases faster, and more efficiently."*

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Statistic of the week

## Ireland 2025 Digital Decade Country Report

Ireland performs well in digital infrastructure and public services, but has slow growth in ICT specialists and gaps in e-Health access remain. The country is however positioning itself as a cybersecurity leader and is investing in semiconductors and green digital tools. Ireland's roadmap includes 81 measures with a budget of EUR 9.2 billion, of which EUR 4.8 billion comes from public budgets (equivalent to 0.90% of GDP). According to the special Eurobarometer on the Digital Decade 2025, 77% of Irish people consider that the digitalisation of public and private services is making their lives easier. 92% of citizens consider it important that public authorities mitigate the issue of fake news and disinformation online. 93% of citizens consider it important to ensure that European companies can grow and become "European Champions" able to compete globally.



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### Agenda

#### 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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#### Friday 20 June: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

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#### 23 June 2025: Foreign Affairs Council

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23 June: EU-Canada summit

The 20th EU-Canada summit will take place in Brussels on 23 June 2025. António Costa, President of the European Council, and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, will represent the EU. Prime Minister Mark Carney will represent Canada.



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Monday 23 June - Tuesday 24 June: Agriculture and Fisheries Council

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Monday 23 June - Tuesday 24 June: Informal meeting of tourism ministers

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Tuesday 24 June: General Affairs Council

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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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## Tuesday 24 June: Getting Ireland AI-Ready (IIEA Event)

Is Ireland ready for the era of Artificial Intelligence (AI)? This event will explore both the opportunities and risks of AI for people and firms in Ireland. This expert panel will discuss how Ireland can ensure that AI is harnessed in a safe manner that is aligned with fundamental rights and European values. The panel will discuss emerging policy issues, including the implementation and supervision of the AI Act, the speed of technological change and how Ireland can ensure trustworthy AI innovation.

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## Thursday 26 June: In-conversation with Commissioner Michael McGrath

In this exclusive event of the Institute of Directors Ireland, Commissioner McGrath will outline the aims and ambitions of his portfolio, as well as addressing the EU competitiveness compass, and the current geopolitical climate.

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## Thursday 26 June - Friday 27 June: European Council

Agenda available at the link below.

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## Friday 27 June: Leaders Dialogue with European Commissioner Michael McGrath

Mary Good, Chair of STEM South West, will lead this fireside chat with EU Commissioner Michael McGrath.

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## Monday 30 June: Designing Agricultural Climate Policy in Ireland - From 2030 to Net Zero (IIEA Event)

In this event, Alan Matthews, Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy at Trinity College Dublin, will present the key themes from his upcoming paper Designing Agricultural Climate Policy in Ireland - From 2030 to Net Zero. The paper, which will be the third in the IIEA's Pathways project, examines the strategic and institutional challenges involved in defining appropriate long-term targets for agricultural emissions in Ireland, and explores the ambiguities and trade-offs in setting 2040 and 2050 targets. It makes the case for exploring the introduction of an agricultural emissions trading scheme to incentivise further progress towards reducing net emissions, and how this could be designed to minimise the impact on farm income while encouraging the necessary structural changes in our food and agricultural system. Prof. Matthews' presentation will be followed by a discussion with an expert panel.

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## Tuesday 1 July: Quantum Europe: The EU's Quantum Technologies Agenda

The emergence of quantum technologies may accelerate technological development and have far-reaching economic and societal impacts. In this event, Dr Gustav Kalbe, Acting Director for Emerging and Enabling Technologies, DG CONNECT, in the European Commission will discuss EU policies toward quantum technologies, including the forthcoming EU Quantum Strategy and the EU Quantum Act. Mr Kalbe will focus part of his remarks on the EU's policies to promote the development of quantum technologies as well as how the risks that these technologies may pose can be addressed.

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### Friday 4 July: EU-Moldova summit

António Costa, President of the European Council, and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, will be meeting Maia Sandu, President of Moldova and the leadership of Moldovan authorities, in Chişinău on 4 July 2025 for the first EU-Moldova summit.

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### Monday 7 July: Eurogroup

Agenda available at the link below.

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### Tuesday 8 July: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

Agenda available 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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## Competitions

### Irish finalist at the New European Bauhaus Prizes 2025 needs your vote

The New European Bauhaus Prizes 2025 public vote is open until July 10, 17:00 Irish time. One Irish project is among the finalists in the category "Reconnecting with Nature": The Seed Pavilion by NOCHT Studio. The New European Bauhaus (NEB) Prizes celebrate innovative projects and ideas that embody NEB values —sustainability, inclusivity, and beauty.



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