

EU NEWS YOU CAN USE

European Commission in Ireland



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Top News

The Institute of Directors Ireland in conversation with Commissioner Michael McGrath

In an exclusive event at the Institute of Directors Ireland, Commissioner McGrath outlined in a speech the aims and ambitions of his portfolio and addressed the EU competitiveness compass, and the current geopolitical climate. The questions from the audience were about Ireland's position in the EU, US trade, relations with the UK, the upcoming Irish Presidency of the EU which will start on 1 July 2026.



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Commission proposes EU Space Act to boost market access and strengthen space safety

The European Commission proposed on 25 June the EU Space Act, a new set of ambitious measures to make Europe's space sector cleaner, safer and more competitive in Europe and its export markets. Europe's space rules are currently fragmented, with many different national approaches. This patchwork holds back innovation, reduces the European market share and creates extra costs. The EU Space Act intends to cut red tape, protect space assets, and create a fair, predictable playing field for businesses.



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Europe's bathing waters safe for summer swimming

From Europe's coastal waters to its inland bathing sites, a large majority of Europe's waters are safe to swim in, according to the latest European bathing water assessment for the 2024 bathing season, published on 20 June. It found that over 85% of monitored locations met the European Union's most stringent 'excellent' bathing water quality standards last year, while 96% of all officially identified bathing waters in the EU met the minimum quality standards.

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Statement by President von der Leyen on the Budapest Pride

I want to express my full support and solidarity to the Budapest Pride and to the LGBTIQ+ community. In Europe, marching for your rights is a fundamental freedom. You have the right to love who you want to love and be exactly who you are. Our Union is one of equality and non-discrimination. These are our core values, enshrined in our Treaties. They must be respected at all times, in all Member States. I call on the Hungarian authorities to allow the Budapest Pride to go ahead without fear of any criminal or administrative sanctions against the organisers or participants. To the LGBTIQ+ community in Hungary and beyond: I will always be your ally. You have every reason to be proud. Europe is stronger and richer because of you. I am on your side. Today and every day.

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Other news

Commission welcomes agreement to make voting in European elections easier from abroad

The European Commission welcomed today's adoption of the new rules on voting rights in European elections for Europeans who live in a different Member State. These rules, proposed by the Commission in November 2021, require Member States to provide timely and clear information on voter registration, election dates and voting procedures, ensuring this information is provided in a language widely understood by the voters.



Michael McGrath, Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law, and Consumer Protection, said: "No one should face barriers to voting, no matter which European country they call home. The new rules will improve access to clear, multilingual information, guarantee fair and equal voting rights and strengthen safeguards for all Europeans."

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Keeping it real: UCD at the helm of the hidden battle against fake food

From Mediterranean olive oil to Scandinavian fish, EU researchers are integrating digital technologies into Europe's key food industries to crack down on counterfeit products. University College Dublin is the coordinator of the EU-funded WATSON initiative, which is developing tools and systems to combat food fraud.

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UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority receive €202 million of support to ensure key services on the ground

The European Commission stepped up its support to the Palestinian people by allocating a total of €202 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Palestinian Authority under the Comprehensive and Multiannual Programme for Palestine's Recovery and Resilience.

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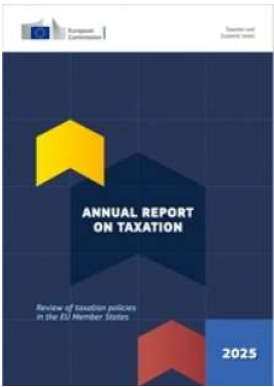
New State aid framework enables support for clean industry

The European Commission adopted on 25 June a new State aid framework supporting the Clean Industrial Deal (CISAF), to enable Member States to push forward the development of clean energy, industrial decarbonisation and clean technology. The CISAF sets out the conditions under which Member States can grant support for certain investments and objectives in line with EU State aid rules.

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Commission Annual Tax Report shows fall in EU tax revenues, amid stable tax mix and growing reform efforts

The European Commission presented on 24 June its Annual Report on Taxation (ART), offering a detailed overview of taxation policies in all EU countries. This report assesses recent trends in EU tax systems and identifies ways to enhance compliance.



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The EU and UK formalise agreements on fisheries and energy cooperation

The EU and the UK took the required steps to consolidate fisheries and energy cooperation within the framework of the EU-United Kingdom Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Both sides formalised key political agreements reached during the first EU-UK Summit in May 2025. These agreements provide much needed certainty, stability and predictability for stakeholders on both sides of the Channel.



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Commission launches AI tools on online platform for researchers and industry

The Commission unveiled new features for artificial intelligence (AI) researchers and industry on its AI-on-Demand platform, including an AI marketplace, an AI development tool that requires minimal coding, as well as secure solutions for generative AI and large language models.



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Commission extends the free and safe flow of data with the UK by six months

The Commission adopted on 24 June a six-month extension of the two adequacy decisions with the United Kingdom, allowing to continue the free flow of data with the UK until 27 December 2025. The Commission proposed to adopt this extension in March to give time to the UK to finalise its new Data Bill.



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commission.europa.eu/document/adaf1cfc-6...

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Commission presents Roadmap for effective and lawful access to data for law enforcement

The European Commission presented on 24 June a Roadmap setting out the way forward to ensure law enforcement authorities in the EU have effective and lawful access to data. The roadmap is an important deliverable under ProtectEU – the EU's Internal Security Strategy which the Commission presented in April this year. Terrorism, organised crime, online fraud, drug trafficking, child sexual abuse, sexual extortion, ransomware, and other offences all share a common feature: they leave digital traces. With 85% of criminal investigations now relying on electronic evidence, law enforcement authorities need better tools and a modernised legal framework to access digital data in a lawful manner while ensuring full respect of fundamental rights.

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World leaders recommit to immunisation amidst global funding shortfall

At the Global Summit: Health and Prosperity through Immunisation on 25 June in Brussels, world leaders pledged support for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, leading to a total of more than EUR 7.7 billion secured against a targeted EUR 10.2 billion budget for its next five-year strategic period from 2026 to 2030 (Gavi 6.0). Additional donor commitments are expected in the coming months.

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Commission welcomes political agreement on gas storage extension

The European Commission welcomed the provisional political agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Council today on the Commission's proposal to prolong the EU Gas Storage Regulation until the end of 2027. The prolongation of gas storage obligations for the next two years will significantly contribute to maintaining the EU's security of energy supply and gas market stability by incentivising preparations for the upcoming winter seasons in a coordinated manner across the Union. Stable energy supplies at affordable prices are key for a competitive European economy.

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EU agri-food trade remains strong in the first quarter of 2025

The latest agri-food trade report published by the European Commission shows that the EU agri-food trade remained strong in the first quarter of 2025. The EU agri-food trade balance remained largely positive, reaching €11.6 billion in the first quarter, despite a reduction due to higher imports price compared to 2024.

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The European Commission to issue €70 billion in EU-Bonds in the second half of 2025

The European Commission announced on 23 June its intention to issue up to €70 billion of EU-Bonds in the second half of 2025. The planned issuance builds on the €86 billion raised in the first half of the year, consistent with the previously communicated planned issuance for the entire 2025 of around €160 billion.

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EU and Canada sign security and defence partnership at the joint 20th Summit

The leaders of the European Union and Canada – Presidents Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa for the EU, with Prime Minister Mark Carney for Canada – agreed to deepen their cooperation and partnership at the 20th EU-Canada Summit that took place 23 June. Both parties signed a landmark Security and Defence Partnership that will strengthen Canada's contribution to Europe's rapidly evolving defence architecture.

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Commission opens in-depth investigation into the proposed acquisition of Kellanova by Mars

The European Commission has opened an in-depth investigation to assess, under the EU Merger Regulation, the proposed acquisition of Kellanova by Mars. The Commission has preliminary concerns that the transaction could lead to higher prices for consumers due to Mars' increased negotiating power towards retailers in the European Economic Area ('EEA').

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Commission restricts Chinese participation in medical devices procurement

The European Commission decided to exclude Chinese companies from EU government purchases of medical devices exceeding €5 million. This measure follows the conclusions of the first investigation under the International Procurement Instrument (IPI), and allows no more than 50% of inputs from China for successful bids.



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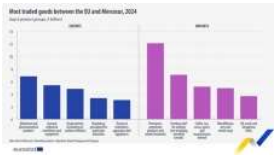
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Statistic of the week

EU–Mercosur Trade Nears €111 Billion in 2024:Ireland part of key trade flows

In 2024, the EU imported €56.0 billion and exported €55.2 billion worth of goods from the four founding Mercosur countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) according to Eurostat. Trade grew overall, with imports up by 4.2% and exports slightly down by 1.3% compared to 2023. Ireland, as a strong EU exporter of pharmaceutical and medical goods, is closely aligned with one of the EU's top export sectors to the region. The EU's main imports from Mercosur were petroleum products (€12.1 billion), animal feed, and coffee, while its top exports included medicinal and pharmaceutical products (€6.8 billion), machinery, and vehicles. Brazil remained the EU's largest Mercosur partner, accounting for the majority of trade. Ireland's footprint in high-value manufactured exports means it is well-positioned within this EU-Mercosur trade dynamic, especially in sectors like pharma and industrial equipment.



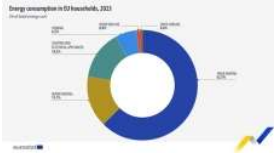
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EU Household Energy Use Falls in 2023: Ireland among the few still reliant on petroleum products

In 2023, EU households used 9.6 million terajoules of energy, down 5.6% from the previous year, continuing the decline from the 2021 peak, according to Eurostat. Heating remained the main use, accounting for 62.5% of household energy use, followed by water heating (15.1%) and lighting and appliances (14.5%). Natural gas (29.5%), electricity (25.9%) and renewables (23.5%) were the main energy sources across the EU. Ireland stands out for its high reliance on petroleum products, which made up 41.7% of household energy use. For space heating, petroleum was the main energy source in Ireland (56.2%), and it also dominated water heating (47.0%). This differs from most EU countries, where households rely more on gas, electricity, or renewables, highlighting Ireland's unique residential energy mix.



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ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explain...

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Agenda

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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Monday 7 July: Eurogroup

Agenda available at the link below.



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Monday 7 July - Tuesday 8 July 2025: Informal meeting of employment ministers

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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Thursday 10 July - Friday 11 July 2025: Informal meeting of environment ministers

Agenda available at the link below

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Job opportunities

26/06/2025

EPSO/AST/157/25 – Assistants (AST 3)

Please note the publication of an open competition: EPSO/AST/157/25 – Assistants (AST 3) in the following fields: 1. Graphic design and visual content production; 2. Social media and digital communication; 3. Webmaster. Closing date: 29 July 2025

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26/06/2025

Selection of Temporary Staff for the Directorate-General for Human Resources and Security of the European Commission

The Commission is organising a selection procedure to constitute a list of aptitude of at least 12 successful candidates from which to engage temporary agents at level AST-SC within the SECURITY DIRECTORATE of Directorate General for Human Resources and Security (DG HR) in the security field Close Protection (CP). The selection is part of HR.DS business continuity plans. The closing date for the submission of applications is 31 July 2025.

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Competitions

Applications open for the 2026 Access City Award

Cities are now invited to apply for the 2026 Access City Award, which recognises cities that have done outstanding work to become more accessible for persons with disabilities. The award is organised by the Commission in partnership with the European Disability Forum. It is open to cities across the EU with over 50,000 inhabitants. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners of the 2026 Access City Award will receive prizes of €150,000, €120,000, and €80,000, respectively. These prizes reward successful participants for their work done and serve to further support their improvements on accessibility.

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2025 EUmies Awards celebrates young architectural talent at the Venice Biennale

The winners of the 2025 EUmies Awards Young Talent were announced on 19 June during the Venice Biennale. The Awards celebrate outstanding young talent in the field of architecture. This year's three laureates are Brave New Axis from the National Technical University of Athens, Forest & Phoenix from the Technical University of Berlin and Hotel Interim from the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. Awarded projects tackle issues such as urban fragmentation, climate resilience, interim reuse and community-driven design.

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Public consultations

Commission invites citizens, travellers and tourism operators to shape sustainable tourism in the EU

The European Commission is seeking citizens', travellers', and tourism operators' views on the upcoming EU sustainable tourism strategy. This strategy will make tourism more sustainable, competitive, and innovative, while enhancing the overall experience for travellers and supporting the sector's resilience.

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Commission seeks feedback on protecting media providers on online platforms

The Commission is seeking feedback on guidelines it will issue to help protect media providers from having their content removed unwarrantedly from very large online platforms, those with over 45 million monthly users. The guidelines will assist these platforms in implementing specific safeguards outlined in the European Media Freedom Act.

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