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## Militarisation of the EU under German leadership?



Germany is planning to militarise the EU so it can become a world power. This was the central message contained in the keynote speech by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the Charles University in Prague. Scholz certainly wasted little time with the usual phrases about peace, freedom and democracy that the EU purports to embody.

“In recent years, many have rightly called for a stronger, more sovereign, geopolitical European Union,” he said, calling “For a Union that knows its place in the history and geography of the continent and acts strongly and united in the world. The historic decisions of the past few months have brought us closer to this goal.” So, if the German military were to become the strongest in Europe what could possibly go wrong?

[Read more here.](#)

## Poll: The narrow majority against joining NATO is likely to be an even larger majority!



A recent study explored whether narratives (or specific suggestions) could influence people's thinking and voting intentions if we were to have a referendum on NATO membership. It's well worth looking closely at this study

The author concluded that: “Overall, our findings point to a need for education and an informed national conversation on our policy of military neutrality and possible future membership of NATO or any other international military alliance.” There's a lesson there for all of us.

[Read more here](#)



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## The EU is on shaky ground!



Germany, which has been dominant within the EU and has imposed austerity against weaker economies such as Ireland, Greece, Spain, Italy, and Portugal, is now demanding that other EU member states bail Germans out of what will soon inevitably be an energy-emergency. This is the outcome from Germany's having complied with US demands to not only join with America's sanctions against Russia,

but to even terminate Germany's Nord Stream 2 Russian gas pipeline that was supposed to be increasing Russia's natural-gas supplies to Europe.

Germany was, until recently, the industrial motor of the EU, and therefore has the most to lose from reduced and far costlier energy-supplies; but this has now happened, and is set to escalate in the coming winter. As those energy supplies get reduced, energy prices will rise.

**[Read more here](#)**

**PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT**  
**GLUISEACHT AN PHOBAIL**

**No to EU Militarisation and an EU Army!**

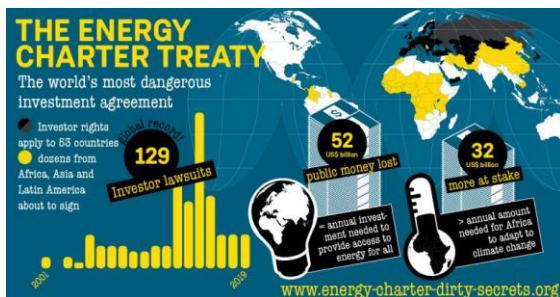
**Neutrality is our best defence.**

People's Movement will hold its monthly protest on  
**Wednesday September 21st at 1:00pm.**

**Outside Dáil Éireann, Kildare St.**

Please try to get along – it is important!  
Placards and posters will be provided.

## Poland to withdraw from the Energy Charter Treaty.



The Polish government has published draft law setting the country on course to withdraw from [a 1990s treaty](#) they say was designed to protect fossil fuels and needs to be abandoned in light of the climate crisis. The draft law on the “termination of the [Energy Charter Treaty](#)” and its protocols was agreed by the Polish government on 10 August and sent to the country's lower chamber, Sejm, on 25 August.

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Sinn Féin spokesperson on Climate Justice, Senator Lynn Boylan, has welcomed Poland's decision to withdraw and called on Ireland to follow suit. Before the summer break, she tabled a motion calling for Ireland to withdraw from the Energy Charter Treaty and is now calling on the Government to support this call and to join Poland in leaving.

**[Read more here](#)**

## Rampant EU inflation points to more interest rate hikes.



Inflation in the eurozone countries rose to another record high in August. Consumer prices rose to 9.1 percent in the 19 EU members sharing the euro currency, from 8.9 percent in July according to Eurostat, the bloc's statistics agency. Last year the rate was 2.2 percent, and the ECB's inflation target is two percent.

Rates in Belgium, Greece, Spain, the Netherlands, Slovakia, and Slovenia were all above 10 percent, Eurostat estimated. France stands at lowest inflation rate with 6.9 percent, followed by Malta and Finland at 7.1 percent and 7.6 percent respectively. The EU's largest economy, Germany, meanwhile saw its inflation reach its highest level in almost half a century, at 8.8 percent.

ECB Governing Council member Gediminas Simkus [says that](#); “Inflation trends are strong, therefore, at least a 50 basis-point increase is needed” next month and does not exclude a 75 basis point increase. It’s all bad news for hard pressed mortgage holders.

## Smoke and mirrors!



In the wake of Commission President Ursula von der Leyen’s missing exchanges with a Pfizer exec. Broadly, the Commission says it doesn’t need to keep documents that are “[short lived and ephemeral](#).” MEP Sophie in’t Veld [asked for more clarification](#) in March. Now, Commission VP Jourová has [responded](#).

The Commission’s internal guidelines on document registration define ‘important information’ and ‘short-lived’ as follows: - A document that requires action or follow-up by the Commission or one of its departments, or involves the responsibility of the institution, is important and not short-lived. Likewise, a document that may later be needed as proof in accordance with the rules and regulations applicable to the underlying ‘business process’ is considered important and not short-lived. - In contrast, information is considered short-lived if not keeping it would have no negative administrative or legal effect for the Commission.” How could von der Leyen’s alleged messages to the Pfizer CEO possibly qualify as “short-lived,” under this definition, especially given the need for “proof” that everything was transparent? Smoke and mirrors!

## Brussels 'becoming like Washington' for revolving-doors – Emily O'Reilly.



An interesting [article](#) by EU Ombudsman Emily O'Reilly: “Our many inquiries into the ‘[revolving door](#)’ phenomenon across several EU institutions reveal a somewhat permissive institutional culture. There is no absence of rules governing moves by EU staff to the private sector but the monitoring of what happens next and the desire to act robustly on suspected or actual breaches does not live up to what the public might expect.

## CETA back on the agenda!



While German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Green Economy Minister Robert Habeck were in Canada during the past weeks, some of the most influential business groups on both sides of the Atlantic were [calling for further cooperation](#).

The group — which includes the Transatlantic Business Initiative, the Canadian German Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Business Council of Canada — used the trip to call for the swift ratification of CETA, the controversial EU-Canada trade deal which would expose the state to corporate lawsuits.

CETA is awaiting ratification by all EU countries. The Dutch parliament was the latest legislature to back the deal last month, but it's still pending full ratification in Germany, though the country's three ruling coalition partners said in June they had agreed to green - light it. The Oireachtas Joint Committee on European Union Affairs reporting in September 2021 was evenly split on a decision to ratify.

## Hitting the nail on the head!



The increasing militarisation of Europe and indeed of the whole world should be deeply worrying to all of humanity. As a neutral country Ireland should be using our membership of the UN Security Council to promote peace in Eastern Europe and elsewhere and should not be taking sides in this disastrous war. While the Russian invasion of Ukraine was the immediate cause of this war, unjustified NATO expansion was the principal background cause.

Now that the vast majority of EU member states are also full members of NATO, this is eroding the EU's claim to be a genuine force for peace. Ireland's ever closer integration with NATO and with the increasing militarisation of the EU is diminishing Irish traditional positive neutrality that is supported by the vast majority of the Irish people. If the EU becomes a war project rather than a peace project, Ireland's membership of the EU may be called into question. *(Ed. Horgan, Shannonwatch).*

## Hello Mercosur?



With a couple of weeks to go to polling, the incumbent Jair Bolsonaro is trailing his rival, former President Lula De Silva by over 15% in opinion polls. EU trade officials are paying close attention to the race in the hope that Bolsonaro will be booted out and they can resurrect the bloc's Mercosur trade agreement with South American countries.

Reuters reports that Lula favours reopening talks on the stalled EU trade deal with South American trade bloc Mercosur to add provisions on environmental protection, human rights and technology. Irish beef farmers will also be watching the outcome.



## Will Spain be next?



Spain must urgently renew the country's most senior judicial body, European Commission Vice-president Věra Jourová has warned. The National Council for the Judiciary (CGPJ), the body that ensures the independence of courts and appoints some magistrates to the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court, has been exercising its functions on an interim basis for years — prompting concerns over the rule of law in Brussels – according to [euobserver](#).

The appointment of these 20 members is subject to a qualified majority of three-fifths in parliament (congress and senate), but no consensus had been reached since 2018. In this summer's [EU rule of law report](#), the commission stressed the importance of reducing the influence of legislative or executive power over the judiciary in order to strengthen judicial independence. Ordinarily, it is Hungary and Poland who have been in Brussels' sights for rule of law breaches. Will Spain be next in line for sanctions?

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## I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE: Holger Osterrieder



The Brussels-based European Security and Defence College (ESDC) has got itself a new head. Holger Osterrieder is his name and he hails from – you guessed it first time – Germany.

A German taking over this role at a time when Berlin has announced it intends to play a “leading military role in Europe” should hardly be a major surprise. Remember Chancellor Scholz revealed in the spring of this year his government would spend a colossal €100 Billion on the

German Armed Forces.

[Read more here](#)

## Spinelli spins again - in harmony



A manifesto for a 'Federal Europe: Sovereign, Social and Ecological', seen by Euractive, has been prepared by the [Spinelli group](#), which brings together influential federalist MEPs in the EU Parliament. It calls for the requirement for decisions to be made by unanimity should be replaced with majority voting across a raft of existing policy areas.

Most EU governments, including Germany, France and Italy, have said that they are in favour of treaty change. However, a substantial blocking minority of mostly smaller states from northern Europe and the Baltics stated in a joint letter that they "[do not support unconsidered and premature attempts to launch a process towards treaty change.](#)"

Last week, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said in a speech that "even the European treaties aren't set in stone," pointing to the need for unanimity voting on policy areas such as foreign policy and human rights to be scrapped.

## Delighted EU arms manufacturers!

EU countries' stocks of weapons are severely "depleted" in the wake of sending arms to Ukraine, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell has warned, while urging member states to replenish their arsenals "together," because that would "be cheaper."

In July, the EU increased military support funding to Ukraine by [€500 million](#). Since the beginning of Russia's war in Ukraine, the EU has provided about [€2.5 billion worth](#) of military assistance to Ukraine through the so-called European Peace Facility (EPF), with some of the weapons coming from the countries' own stocks.

The EPF has a financial ceiling of €5.692 billion for the 2021-2027. Contributions are determined based on a gross national income (GNI) distribution key, so we pay our share. The arms manufacturers must be delighted!

## The WHO Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response Treaty – the latest threat to our sovereignty – pushed from Brussels!



In March this year the EU Council authorised the EU Commission to open negotiations for a legally binding international agreement with World Health Organisation (WHO). The idea for this treaty originated with the President of the EU Council Charles Michel at the Paris Peace Forum in November 2020.

Currently the EU Health Service Directive forces the Irish government to divert funds from the public system to private health providers both here and abroad. This WHO pandemic treaty could legally bind the Irish government to commit a *predetermined* portion of our health budget to *pre-defined* vaccines and other anti viral medicines, diagnostics and PPE.

[Read more here.](#)

## How Bill Gates and his partners took over the global Covid response



Four health organizations, working closely together, spent almost \$10 billion on responding to Covid across the world. But they lacked the scrutiny of governments, and fell short of their own goals, an investigation by POLITICO and *Die Welt* has found.

It reveals how the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Wellcome Trust; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations took on roles often played by countries, but without the accountability of governments.

The average circulation of *Die Welt* is about 200,000 and the paper can be obtained in more than 130 countries. The investigation is detailed and by no means could be considered the work of conspiracy theorists! It is particularly important in the context of EU deals on vaccines and the pending establishment of The WHO Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response Treaty on the back of an EU initiative and outlined in the article ABOVE. [The report is here](#)

### Those Pfizer contracts again!



The Court of Auditors, the EU's budget watchdog, has published a report dissecting the crucial months in which the EU scrambled to secure coronavirus vaccines. It criticised the Commission's refusal to provide information about negotiations for the bloc's biggest procurement of up to 1.8 billion doses of the BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine.

It details how — in contrast to all the other contracts — von der Leyen personally handled the negotiations with BioNTech/Pfizer. And unlike the other deals, the Commission refused to provide the court with any material tied to these first talks. So, what's the Commission hiding — apart from text messages that it says it hasn't looked for?

### EU-Israel Association Council to meet.



In July the European Commission [took the staggering decision](#) to reconvene the EU-Israel Association Council, which had been inactive since 2013. We now know that the plan is to have the meeting on 6th October. This is the highest level diplomatic forum between the EU and Israel, and having it re-activated represents a significant coup for Israel's renewed diplomacy efforts at the EU level.

However, Israel's actions since then - the assault on Gaza, the intensification of attacks on civil society groups, the planned new restrictions on foreigners in the West Bank, the planned evictions in Masafer Yatta, and the E1 settlement plan moving forward (supposedly one of the EU's 'red line issues') - mean that there is potential leverage to have the Council meeting revoked. It will only take one Member State to do so. Obviously, it would be great if that state was Ireland, with or without backing from other states such as Belgium.

## **An opportunity for Ireland!**



One of the most tragic aspects of the war in Ukraine is the almost total absence of any serious attempt to de-escalate the conflict. Europe's international architecture centres round NATO and the European Union.

It's obvious that Ireland has a great but fleeting opportunity to be a force for peace as it has not become directly involved in the conflict in Ukraine – though indirectly involved through the so – called European Peace Facility. We are no threat to either side and would hardly suffer any negative consequences by calling for a negotiated peace and offering our services as mediator. It would be a clear signal that would clearly express the wishes of the Irish people and indeed of many people in Europe. So why doesn't our government do it?

[Read more here](#)

## **A digital Euro - anyone?**



Along with most central banks around the world the European Central Bank (ECB) is contemplating a central bank digital currency.

Following a public consultation and an experimentation work with the euro area national central banks in 2021, the ECB is currently exploring the optimal design of a digital euro.

Regardless of the final structure, we are assured that a digital euro would complement cash in payments by providing a digital alternative. There is a EUObserver [opinion piece here](#).

## **Latest - Germany must become 'the best equipped armed force in Europe', Scholz says**



Germany is ready to become a leader on European security and must become the "best equipped armed force" in Europe, Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Friday in his latest statement on the issue of German military leadership.

"As the most populous nation with the greatest economic power and a country in the centre of the continent, our army must become the cornerstone of conventional defence in Europe, the best-equipped force," Scholz said in a speech before the top personnel of the Bundeswehr.

"At the same time, we are showing clearly and credibly that Germany is ready to assume leading responsibility for the security of our continent," Scholz said.



