

Into Europe:
**IRELAND
& THE EU**
1973-2023



Into Europe: IRELAND & THE EU 1973-2023



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While EEC, European Communities, and EC have all been used to designate today's European Union, this exhibition mainly uses the acronym EU throughout.

Fifty years ago, on 1 January 1973, Ireland officially joined a new community, the European Community. In a May 1972 referendum the Irish electorate delivered a clear message that they wanted to be integrated into Europe, voting 83% in favour of entry.

Joining the EC was done in a spirit of optimism with expectations of higher standards of living, better prices for agricultural products, new industrial markets, and more jobs. Coming exactly fifty years after independence, Ireland's entry marked the most momentous development in Irish foreign policy, and in national sovereignty, since the foundation of the Irish state half a century earlier.

From being an isolated island on the periphery of Europe with a small economy, since 1973 Ireland has evolved into one of the most open, globalised and progressive societies in the world. Reinforcing Ireland's connection to its continental neighbours has transformed Irish culture and society. In the process, Ireland has become a vital and vibrant member of the community of EU member states.

The milestone of a half century gives us cause to reflect on Ireland's EU membership and what it has meant to feel a sense of being Irish and European. Three and a half million Irish citizens have only ever known Ireland within the EU. This exhibition explores some of the highlights of membership over the last fifty years.



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1: Signing of the Treaties of Rome, creating the EEC and EURATOM, 25 March 1957.

(European Commission
Audiovisual Service)

2: Taoiseach Jack Lynch and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Patrick Hillery TD sign Ireland's accession to the European Communities, Brussels, 22 January 1972.

(European Commission
Audiovisual Service)

Below: An information leaflet on the implications of EEC membership for Ireland published by the recently renamed Department of Foreign Affairs in 1972.

(Michael Kennedy, personal collection)

'A MOST IMPORTANT CROSSROADS'

Taoiseach Jack Lynch, announcing the referendum on EEC entry in the Dáil, 21 March 1972





1.

COMMUNITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN AT THE HEART OF IRISH LIFE.



2.



Ireland's accession to the European Communities would require an amendment to Bunreacht na hÉireann. Accession was to be put to the Irish people to decide upon on 10 May 1972. The proposal would be the first constitutional amendment to be approved by Irish voters via referendum.

Prior to 1995 the government was not obliged to provide information on the pros and cons of a referendum issue, so in 1972 Jack Lynch's Fianna Fáil government could freely campaign for a yes vote.

Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and interest groups like the Irish Farmers' Association also campaigned for a 'Yes' vote in the referendum. The 'No' campaign, which was much smaller in scale, was led by Labour, Sinn Féin, some trade unions, and interest groups such as the sea fishing industry.

Taoiseach Jack Lynch and Minister for Foreign Affairs Patrick Hillery TD were the public faces of the 'Yes' campaign. They energetically traversed the country promoting accession to interest and sectoral groups.

Lynch and Hillery were in agreement that Ireland's potential would only be fully realized from within the EC. Their key aims were to promote the immediate benefits of membership to the agricultural community through the promise increased prices via the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and the longer-term benefit of access to European markets for industrial growth and increasing employment.

Voting took place on Thursday 10 May 1972 from 9am to 9pm. With a 70.88% turnout, 83.1% of Irish men and women, some 1.2 million, voted in favour of entry. The Irish public were at one with Jack Lynch's confidence in the country's ability 'to hold an equal place in the Europe of tomorrow.'

'YES' to EUROPE



IRELAND SAYS
"YES" TO EUROPE
1972
RTÉ Archives (rte.ie)

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1: Evidence of the resistance to the prospect of EEC membership as captured in this graffiti.

(The Irish Times)

2: President Éamon de Valera and Taoiseach Jack Lynch at the signing of the Instrument of Ratification of the Treaty of Accession to the EEC, December 1972.

(The Irish Times)

Below: Youth for Europe, 'The balance favours entry ... say Yes to Europe'. 1971.

(NLI Ephemera Accession 1595)

The Balance Favours Entry

IF WE SAY NO
50,000 more jobs
Better Standard of Living
Coordinated Export Markets
Less Immigration - Better Social Welfare

IF WE SAY ABOUT
Massive Unemployment
Loss of Export Markets
We say in EEC decisions that affect us
Lower Standard - plus higher cost - of Living

So ... **Say YES to Europe**



UNITE WITH
EUROPE
VOTE **YES**

1.



2.



Going to vote.
(The Irish Times)

The foundation document of European integration, the 1957 Treaty of Rome, articulated a commitment to freedom of movement of goods, services, capital and people across a 'common market'. Such freedom of market access would benefit all members of the community through increased economic growth and social development.

A validation of the 'common market' was the almost doubling of steel consumption across the six founding Member States of the EEC between 1952 and 1962 through the European Coal and Steel Community.

The aim of stimulating European industrial growth and commercial expansion begun by the Treaty of Rome ultimately led to the creation of the 'Single Market' across the Community which took legal effect thirty years ago on 1 January 1993. It brought an end to the customs border on the island of Ireland five years before the Good Friday Agreement would eliminate a need for security-related border checks between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The benefit of Irish membership of the 'Single Market' is now estimated to be worth in excess of €30 billion annually. The EU sits alongside the United States and China as one of the world's largest economies. No longer constrained by access only to a small domestic market and an overreliance on trade with Britain, Ireland's European connection enables easy access to a market of 26 countries, approximately 450 million people and over 20 million businesses. Participation in the wider European market has made the Irish economy and Irish exporters much more resilient to economic shocks such as the 1970s oil crisis, the 2008 economic crash and most recently the Covid-19 pandemic.

A COMMON MARKET



THE SINGLE
EUROPEAN ACT
1987
RTÉ Archives (rte.ie)

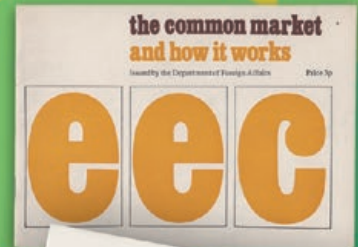
Into Europe: IRELAND & THE EU 1973-2023

Below: *The Common Market and How it Works*, published by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

(Michael Kennedy, personal collection)

Bottom: Irish brochure issued at the Anuga trade fair, one of the world's largest agrifood trade fairs. Cologne, October 1987.

(NAI 2017/14/21)





Tom Wall, CFO of FINEOS, Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation, and Cecilia Malström, Member of the European Commission in charge of Trade. FINEOS is an Irish software company with offices in Europe and elsewhere, 2015.

(European Commission Audiovisual Service)

1: Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the IMF, and Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of the Euro and Social Dialogue, in Dublin in 2015 for an event organised by the Central Bank of Ireland (CBI), the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

(European Commission Audiovisual Service)

#IrelandRecovery



1.



EEC GRANTS TO FARMERS
1986
RTÉ Archives (rte.ie)

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Culturally, the farming community has played a central role in Irish life. Agriculture remains the most important indigenous economic sector, with around 170,000 employed in agri-foods, while Irish food and drink exports are valued at approximately €15 billion annually.

The EU's chief agricultural strategy, as articulated in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), is arguably one of its most important policies. The CAP was introduced to provide affordable, safe and high-quality food, in addition to ensuring a fair standard of living for farmers, through agricultural funding mechanisms. The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) was initially linked to the CAP but over time it became more independent.

For an island state such as Ireland, fishing has also been economically and socially important. The natural, clean water around the Irish coastline has provided exceptional seafood for thousands of years. The estimated GDP of the Irish seafood industry is €1 billion.

For all these reasons, the EU's policies on farming and fishing have occupied a central focus in discussions around Irish EU membership and Europe has invested heavily in Ireland's ability to feed the community.

Being part of the European Union means that Irish farmers and fishers are not facing major international issues by themselves. Ireland co-ordinates with the other EU Member States to find solutions to global, as well as local, issues of farming and mariculture. In the process Ireland is importantly influencing policy as a member of the Community.

The Irish farming and fishing communities, on 135,000 farms and nearly 1,900 fishing vessels, continue to provide much-celebrated sustenance to Europeans near and far.



1.



2.

1: José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission (third from the left), on a 2009 visit to the Limerick Milk Market.

(European Commission
Audiovisual Service)

2: Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner charged with Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (centre), examining a lobster during a 2015 visit to a Cork fisherman, Kieran Healy, in the presence of Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (right).

(European Commission
Audiovisual Service)



1.
2.



An integrated primary school in Belfast, 1995, established with the aid of EU structural funds.
(European Commission Audiovisual Service)

The EU has had a defining impact in bringing peace to Ireland. As John Hume once observed, with authority, the ‘European Union is the best example, in the history of the world, of conflict resolution.’

Integration aims to strengthen peace on the European continent and beyond. Ireland demonstrated a commitment to these ideals even prior to EEC entry in 1973. For example, in 1949 Ireland was amongst the original signatories to the statute creating the Council of Europe and the European Convention and Court of Human Rights.

Closer to home, issues of peace and cooperation would become central as Northern Ireland became increasingly volatile with the outbreak of the Troubles in 1969. Just eight days after Ireland signed the Treaty of Accession to the European Communities, ‘Bloody Sunday’ ensured that news of violence on the island of Ireland made headlines globally. Throughout tumultuous times the European Parliament often provided a neutral political platform for Northern Ireland nationalists and unionists to meet.

In 1998, Northern Ireland’s trajectory was altered by the signing of the milestone peace agreement, the Good Friday Agreement. The EU has always fully supported the Irish peace process through initiatives such as the PEACE funding programmes and by promoting economic and social engagements.

More recently, the United Kingdom’s decision to leave the EU has not been without implications. The EU made the unique circumstances of the island of Ireland a major priority throughout the Brexit negotiations. The Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, which forms part of the Withdrawal Agreement agreed by the UK and EU, ensures there is no hard border on the island and protects the gains of the peace process as well the integrity of the Single Market.



COMMUNITIES TOGETHER



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1: José Manuel Barroso (middle), President of the European Commission with Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) leader, Ian Paisley (left), First Minister designate of the Northern Ireland Assembly, and Martin McGuinness (right) of Sinn Féin, Deputy First Minister designate of the Northern Ireland Assembly. On the same occasion, Barroso announced the creation of a task force within the European Commission, to review the possibilities of improving the access and the participation of the region in the community programmes and policies.

(European Commission
Audiovisual Service)

2: Nobel Peace Prize Winner and Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) leader, John Hume, also served as a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for over twenty-five years. In this image Hume is depicted in conversation with Gay Byrne on RTÉ’s *The Late Late Show*, October 1998.

(RollingNews.ie)

Michael Barnier (third from left), the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, visits the Irish border region in May 2017. The possible impact of the British decision to leave the European Union was of particular concern to the agrifood sector on both sides of the border. Also pictured are (L-R): Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs; Máiread McGuinness MEP, Vice-President of the European Parliament; and (second from right) Charles Flanagan TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade.
(European Commission Audiovisual Service)



AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES

Equality between genders is one of the fundamental principles of EU law, and legislation for equal rights has existed since the very early days of integration. In fact, the basic principle of ‘equal pay for equal work’ was enshrined in the Treaty of Rome in 1957.

Women who have come of age in Ireland since 1973 enjoy considerably more rights than their mothers, thanks in large part to Ireland’s EU membership.

In 1973 Irish women were discriminated against significantly in the workplace. It was accepted practice that men were paid more for undertaking the same task. ‘Equal pay for equal work’ came slowly to 1970s Ireland. There was also a marriage bar in place whereby women in public service jobs had to resign upon marriage; a restriction which was removed as a direct consequence of EEC membership.

Using the legal basis provided by subsequent treaties, member states including Ireland have adopted thirteen directives on gender equality since 1975. These directives have ensured, among other things, equal treatment concerning access to work, training, promotions and working conditions, as well as guaranteed rights to parental leave and the protection of pregnant workers and breastfeeding mothers.

When Ireland joined the EEC there were only 287,800 Irish women in employment, representing 27% of the total workforce. By 2018 there were more than 804,700 women in the labour market, a participation rate of 77.2% of the female population.

While great strides have been made in fostering gender equality, gaps still exist and there is much to improve upon still. But it is indisputable that for Irish women, and their families, European integration has been a seismic accelerator of gender equality.

IRISHWOMEN FOR CHANGE



EEC EQUALITY
DIRECTIVES
1986
RTÉ Archives (rte.ie)

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1: Delegates who addressed the EC conference on “Women and the Completion of the Internal Market” held in Dublin Castle in 1990. From left to right: unidentified, Michael Keegan; Minister for Labour Bertie Ahern TD; Chair of the Employment Equality Agency Judge Catherine McGuinness; and Chair of the Women’s Rights Committee Christine Crawley MEP.
(RTÉ Archives)

Below: *Irishwomen Chains or Change: The Civil Wrongs of Irish Women*, published by The Irish Women’s Liberation Movement, 1970.
(NA DT 2002/8/60)



Visit of President of Ireland Mary Robinson to the European Commission, with Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission.
(European Commission Audiovisual Service)



Ireland's unique historical experience has shaped its trajectory on the international stage and its position in the European Union since 1973. It has shown the capacity of smaller states to influence larger members of the Community. The EU plays an important role in international affairs through diplomacy, trade, peacekeeping, promoting public health, combatting climate change and an active international development agenda. Ireland contributes to all these through involvement in the EU's external policy development and implementation.

Ireland's protracted experience of colonialism and its struggle for independence has inevitably resulted in a strong attachment to national sovereignty. However, the decision to pool sovereignty with European partners in 1973 has ultimately been seen by the majority of Irish people as a way for the State to enhance its international interests through the EU.

With a well-regarded record of UN peacekeeping, and over a century of active international engagement at state level, the development of European foreign, security and defence policies have been closely observed in Ireland. Hence the protocols on Irish neutrality in the Nice Treaty.

Generally, Ireland's international positioning within the EU speaks to how the Union navigates operable common security and defence policies, while bringing to bear the unique strengths of a neutral member state.

The European Commission works with Ireland to help achieve common climate change ambitions, while it is instrumental in supporting and encouraging member states to take decisive action. Similarly focused collective action was necessitated when Covid-19 arrived in Europe in 2020. In many ways, Ireland's EU connectivity exemplifies the spirit of a saying which speaks to how interdependent we ultimately are, 'ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine'.

A SOVEREIGN STATE IN THE WORLD



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1: Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs Garret FitzGerald TD, President in office of the Council of the EC, speaks to Mauritian prime minister Seewoosagur Ramgoolam at the signing of the Lomé Convention in Togo, 1975. The convention marked an important stage in the development of trade and aid relations between the EEC and the states of Africa, the Caribbean, and the ACP countries.

(European Commission
Audiovisual Service)

2: Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Minister for State for Defence Paul Kehoe TD and Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces, Vice-Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, with members of the Irish Defence Forces deployed with the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Mali, January 2019.

(Department of the Taoiseach)

3: (L to R) Green Party Leader Trevor Sargent TD and Nuala Ahern MEP during a Green Party conference on the 2002 Nice Treaty referendum at Buswells Hotel, Dublin, October 2002.

(RollingNews.ie)



The Irish Colleges in Italy's Bobbio, Spain's Salamanca and Belgium's Leuven, among other locations, attest to the propensity for the Irish, right back into the Middle Ages, to combine travel to the European continent with scholarly endeavour and learning. In fact, Robert Schuman, a 'father of Europe', emphasised more than once that Ireland's St. Columbanus (543-615) was their own adopted patron saint as they embarked on the future European project.

In more recent years the mobility that Irish membership of the EU has enabled has become part and parcel of everyday life. Irish citizens can travel to any EU Member State without a need for visas. They also have the right to live, work or study in any EU country. Indeed, for many Irish citizens studying in an EU country has become a rite of passage.

Since the 1987 launch of Erasmus, the EU's study and work abroad programme, more than 65,000 students and staff from Ireland have participated in Europe-wide learning. Peter Sutherland, one of Ireland's EU Commissioners, was considered by many to have been the 'Father of Erasmus'. Erasmus would go on to become the largest study abroad programme of its type in the world.

Now known as Erasmus+, students coming to study or work in Ireland are responsible for being over 25,000 visitors annually attesting to the vision of Columbanus, Schuman and Sutherland to combine European travel with educational opportunities.

LEARNING IN EUROPE



IRISH COLLEGE IN
LEUVEN
1987
RTÉ Archives (rte.ie)

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1: Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, on a visit to Dublin to discuss matters such as Irish involvement in the European Universities Strategy and Erasmus+, Trinity College Dublin, 2022.

(European Commission
Audiovisual Service)

2: Mary McAleese, former President of Ireland, chair of the High-Level Group on the Modernisation of Higher Education, Brussels, September 2012.

(European Commission
Audiovisual Service)

Below: Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, Member of the European Commission in charge of Research, Innovation and Science, received a group of University College Dublin (UCD) students, Brussels, 2011.

(European Commission
Audiovisual Service)





**of High Level Group on
sation of Higher Educat**

*Enabling Europe's higher education
to promote excellent teaching and
innovation and growth in Europe*



Commission européenne |
European Commission

2.

In marking fifty years of Ireland in the EU, we are also marking fifty years of enlargements of the Community.

Ireland entered in the very first expansion in 1973– joining with the United Kingdom and Denmark. It would be almost a decade before the Community further enlarged, with Greece joining in 1981.

From the perspective of Community expansion, Ireland was most prominently showcased when the largest EU enlargement, of ten new member states, took place in 2004 under an Irish EU Presidency.

The Presidency of the Council rotates among the EU member states every 6 months. During this time the state holding the presidency chairs meetings at every level in the Council, helping to ensure the continuity of the EU's work in the Council. Ireland has held the presidency on eight occasions in the past fifty years, the first occurring just two years after entry in 1975.

Holding the presidency gives every member state, be it large or small, the opportunity to be at the helm of the EU. The next Irish EU presidency will take place in 2026.

The fifty years since Ireland joined the EU has generally been characterised by widespread popular support for the Community, although the initial rejections of the Treaties of Nice and Lisbon provoked some reflection on core matters.

Overall, euroscepticism remains a minority view in Ireland. The most recent Eurobarometer report (2022) indicates that 71% of Irish poll respondents have a 'positive image of the EU'. These sentiments would most likely please those who put Ireland on this pathway a half century ago; on balance Eurobarometer results suggest that there is widespread belief in Ireland that EC membership has been a remarkably successful development for Irish society.

ENLARGING EUROPE



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1: Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dermot Ahern TD, sign the Lisbon Treaty, 13 December 2007. The treaty was intended to streamline the future expansion of the EU.

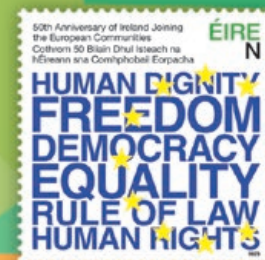
(Department of Foreign Affairs)

2: School children from various EU nationalities wait to present their national flags to their Prime Ministers or Heads of Government at Áras an Uachtaráin as part of The Day of Welcomes Flag Raising Ceremony to celebrate the enlargement of the EU with the accession of ten new states.

(RollingNews.ie)

Below: The postage stamp marking the fiftieth anniversary of Ireland joining the European Communities.

(Courtesy of An Post)





**Dates of Irish presidencies,
1973-2023:**

January-June 1975

July-December 1979

July-December 1984

January-June 1990

July-December 1996

January-June 2004

January-June 2013



It has all happened incrementally, beginning fifty years ago. But today, and each and every day, Irish people engage with European infrastructure in Ireland in big and small ways.

Some of those encounters are formal and are expressed through how we might engage, for example, with the LEADER funding programme which supports community-led local development in rural Ireland or how we might read a Eurofound report, generated in Dublin, on pan-European social, employment and work-related policies.

But more typically we meet Europe in much more casual and quotidian ways: from the passports we are issued, to the roads we drive upon, to the public transport we use, and the currency we use every day. Much of the European footprint in Ireland is now so much a part of everyday life that it is almost entirely taken for granted. EU membership means that we avail of better access, rights and protection when we travel, consume, fly, use mobile phones or need to avail health insurance, amongst many other settings.

The Irish population since 1973, more often than not, embraced the opportunities and community-building pathways provided by EU membership. Ireland has made so many aspects of Europe part of everyday life and culture and the country wears this with ease.

It is difficult to imagine an Ireland without the EU or indeed an EU without Ireland. We might paraphrase Seamus Heaney to describe the impact of the EU in Ireland as 'a series of ripples widening out from an original centre'.

ENGAGING WITH EUROPE



REACTION TO THE
EURO
2002
RTÉ Archives (rte.ie)

Into Europe: IRELAND & THE EU 1973-2023

1: The home and staff of The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), Dublin, 2018. The first EU agency to be based in Ireland, Eurofound was established in 1975 at Loughlinstown House. (Eurofound)

Below: Marian Winget from Tallaght with her Euros which she received for her Irish pound notes part of the Euro changeover at the Central Bank, January 2001. (RollingNews.ie)



Taoiseach Charles J. Haughey and Minister for Foreign Affairs Brian Lenihan TD at a European Council meeting in Luxembourg, April 1980. Haughey and Garret FitzGerald (pictured on front cover) were pivotal players in Irish politics, and by extension the EU scene, throughout the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

(European Commission Audiovisual Service)



1.



Like other symbols of the European Union in Ireland, the Irish language has comfortably straddled the state and the broader European context over the past fifty years. Irish has been a Treaty language since 1973, meaning that only the EU treaties were translated since Ireland did not request that Irish be made an official language upon accession.

But on 1 January 2022, as a result of a concerted campaign by advocacy groups and supported by Government, the Irish language was placed on an equal footing with the other twenty-three EU languages by being made a full official and working language of the community. The EU's recognition of the Irish language represents an important endorsement of one of the oldest written and spoken languages in the world.

The strategies taken around the Irish language, at national and EU levels, signify the confidence of a culture and society which is comfortable in its own skin; embracing its heritage and traditions, and displaying an openness to the new and diverse.

At this important milestone of a century old state, now fifty years in the embrace of a wider European, community we can see the symbolism of a diverse, multicultural and multilingual Ireland celebrating past, present and future...be that as Gaelige, as Béarla nó i bPolainnis.

TÍR LE TEANGA



3.



FOREIGN
STUDENTS LEARN
IRISH
1987
RTÉ Archives (rte.ie)

Into Europe: IRELAND & THE EU 1973-2023

1: Staff at The Printed Image, Paul Power (left) and Ciaran Russell (right), unload Sinn Féin's Irish-language posters for the referendum on the Fiscal Stability Treaty in Dublin in May 2012.

(RollingNews.ie)

2: Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore TD officially launches the Labour Party's Irish-language Stability Treaty posters with Deputies Ciara Conway, Aodhán Ó Riordáin and Deputy Director of Elections, Dominic Hannigan TD in Dublin City Centre, May 2012.

(RollingNews.ie)

3: Éile Ní Chianáin, Irish winner of the 2017 Juvenes Translatores competition, which rewards the best young translators in the European Union.

(European Commission Audiovisual Service)





Irish leaders travel regularly to Brussels to meet EU leaders on major issues, including in recent years in respect of Irish negotiations with the United Kingdom post Brexit and the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The scene captures how the unity, cooperation and strength envisaged by Monnet have benefited modern Ireland as a result of greater engagement with European integration; especially in the context of events which are somewhat beyond the control of one state alone and which have the potential to profoundly impact the lives of Irish people.

(European Commission
Audiovisual Service)

IRELAND'S VOICE IN EUROPE



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In October 2020 during a visit to the European Commission in Brussels, then-Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen pass an oversized portrait of a smiling Jean Monnet, considered to be another ‘father of the Europe’, who initiated the European Coal and Steel Community in 1950 as a way to connect and reconcile France and Germany after the Second World War.

While some have argued that Ireland’s membership of the EU has diminished the state’s sovereignty and freedom to act in international affairs, others consider that Community membership has strengthened Ireland’s voice internationally as a member of a strong economic and political bloc. The way in which Irish leaders have engaged globally on these and other issues of our age has been fundamentally shaped and strengthened by Ireland having a voice among many in a larger community. Clearly EU membership has enabled Ireland to mitigate some of the impact of recent seismic occurrences in international relations and has meant that Ireland has not had to depend on going it alone.

This exhibition is a Documents on Irish Foreign Policy project presented in partnership with the Royal Irish Academy, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the National Archives.

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Lensmen Photographic Archive

National Archives of Ireland

National Library of Ireland

The Irish Times

RTÉ Archives

Rolling News

www.irishelectionliterature.wordpress.com

www.irishpoliticalmaps.blogspot.ie

www.irishnewsarchive.com

Cover: Minister for Foreign Affairs Garret FitzGerald TD, arrives in Brussels, with the iconic Berlaymont building in the background, for a European Council meeting, July 1975.

(European Commission Audiovisual Service)



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives



Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann
Royal Irish Academy

