



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



**GOVERNEMENT**

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# France-Ireland 2026 – 2030 Joint Strategic Framework





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# Joint Strategic Framework

## Context

Ireland and France benefit from a partnership shaped by our proximity on the Atlantic coast of Europe, by our interwoven history and, in the modern era, by our shared values, increasingly integrated economies and deep commitment to the European project and the multilateral system.

In 2021, as France became Ireland's closest neighbour in the European Union, we agreed a first bilateral framework to accelerate and deepen this partnership. Since then, at the level of the President and the Taoiseach, complemented by Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other senior Ministers, regular meetings and contact have taken place to review priorities and maintain momentum.

This initiated an unprecedented number of high-level government visits in both directions and a work programme that has deepened our collaboration across all areas: political, trade and economic, security and defence, foreign policy and international cooperation, research and education, culture, transport, energy and the environment.

The pace of change confronting our societies has accelerated and the global complexities we face have increased, including challenges to the fundamental values we share. This is why our new joint strategic framework must reflect the turbulent period we are in, and ensure that our efforts are directed to those areas where collaboration is either indispensable or where it offers the prospect of demonstrably better outcomes for our citizens.

## First Pillar – Partners for a more competitive Europe

The Ireland-France relationship is firmly anchored in our joint membership of the European Union. The Union has met and surmounted many challenges, internal and external, all the while focusing on improving the lives of those who reside in its member states. Both Ireland and France know well the benefits that participation in a vibrant and dynamic Union has brought and continues to bring to our citizens, not least through enabling the rapid growth of our mutual trade and investment. France plays a key leadership role in response to challenges facing Europe, in line with the Versailles Declaration of March 2022, and Ireland assumes the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2026.

The challenges we face are many and complex: to build our resilience to global shocks and contribute to European security; to speed up the transition to zero-carbon energy and our efforts towards sustainability in the face of climate change; to strengthen the European single market, including through the savings and investments union, in order to develop our competitiveness; to make the EU a global leader in technologies of the future such as space, biotechnologies, quantum computing and sustainable AI, through our support to the European innovation ecosystem; to simplify and advance an agile, innovation-friendly and future-proof European digital regulatory framework, including implementation of the EU Digital Services Act; to maintain resilient European agricultural, fishing and aquaculture sectors underpinned by strong Common Agricultural and Fishery Policies;

to support the development of a sustainable and innovative blue economy; to ensure an outward-looking and globally engaged EU; to support an open, rules-based EU trade policy committed to a reformed WTO, that ensures the EU's prosperity and competitiveness, prevents disruption to global supply chains, uses our trade defence instruments to defend ourselves against proven cases of unfair trade practices, and increases the EU's economic resilience; to pursue the admission of new members through enlargement and to finance our future activities.

In a global environment that is more unpredictable, the best protection for our citizens is a European Union that is capable of meeting its most essential needs and of taking its future into its own hands.

## Second Pillar - A fair, safe and sustainable global environment

The United Nations and its institutions have been a primary framework for Franco-Irish cooperation, including recently as partners on the UN Security Council and in international peacekeeping operations. While Ireland and France work together to defend and strengthen the UN and existing multilateral architecture, the coming years will see cooperation expand in other formats such as the European Political Community, hosted by Ireland in 2026, and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.

Dialogue and cooperation on security and defence are already underway, including at EU level, on issues such as the protection of critical infrastructure, ensuring maritime security, joint/collaborative procurement, strengthening the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base, and reinforcing cooperation between our defence forces in a manner that respects Ireland's military neutrality.

However, international law and the values enshrined in the UN Charter are being challenged as never before. In Ukraine, internationally recognised borders have been violated, and in Gaza humanitarian and human rights norms have been abandoned with horrific consequences for human life and dignity. This redoubles our determination to uphold these values and the institutions that protect them. Our support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders is unwavering,

as is our commitment to a lasting and sustainable peace in the Middle East based on the two-state solution. Our commitment is demonstrated, among other things, by joint initiatives such as the Coalition of the Willing in support of Ukraine or the UN conference on a two-state solution.

Ten years after the Paris Climate Agreement, the effects of the triple global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are accelerating, even as new and powerful technologies become available. We both view as priorities the rapid rollout of low-carbon energy technologies, including offshore wind and new grid connections. We support a strong maritime policy at European level, as envisioned at the 2025 Nice UNOC3 Conference, through the adoption of an ambitious Ocean Pact. We share a commitment to strengthening climate finance and to solidarity and practical action in support of vulnerable developing countries.

## Third Pillar - Culture, civic discourse and connection

Our partnership is firmly grounded in our people; in the history of migration and mobility that has enriched our two societies; in the deep curiosity and respect we hold for each other's languages and culture; in the increasing exchange of students, researchers, artists, writers and entrepreneurs; and in our love of sport.

We recognise the role that vibrant communities and strong civic engagement play in this partnership through twinings and local initiatives. These people-to-people connections are essential to the vitality of our democratic societies. They nurture the values of cultural diversity, community participation, solidarity and freedom of expression that we hold dear. We are committed to protecting, promoting and expanding these exchanges in every respect.

## Implementation

To give practical effect to these objectives, we have agreed the Joint Plan of Action that follows for the next two years. We will review progress on this plan at the level of ministers on an annual basis. Defence Ministers will review progress on defence-related aspects. Recognising the pace of change in the world around us, and the ambition behind this joint strategic framework, we will agree a further action plan in two years' time.

# Joint Action Plan 2026-2027

## Pillar One Actions: Partners for a more competitive Europe

France and Ireland declare their intent to:

- » Intensify cooperation in response to EU challenges, including in the context of Ireland’s upcoming Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
- » Deepen cooperation between Department of Finance and DG Trésor on our shared priority of improving the competitiveness of the EU economy and raising productivity growth, including through the proposals for the post-2028 EU budget and delivery of the Savings and Investments Union.
- » Deepen dialogue between our Ministries with responsibility for the economy, enterprise and trade promotion and build ties between public trade and investment agencies (including Business France, IDA and Enterprise Ireland) in order to identify ways to further strengthen bilateral trade and cross border investment, in the context of a deepened European single market.
- » Develop the annual Ireland-France Economic Forum, alternating between both countries, with business leaders, investors, economic agencies and public servants to deepen economic cooperation and strengthen the dialogue between Irish and French businesses and administrations.
- » Strengthen consultations between senior officials in the Department of Enterprise and Direction Générale des Entreprises to identify opportunities for collaboration under new European industrial strategies, such as Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs).
- » Enhance the collaboration between our digital ecosystems, with a particular focus on the French and Irish AI Factory Antennas partnership.
- » Work towards organising a targeted event to strengthen links between the French and Irish start-up and innovation ecosystems and facilitate the movement of entrepreneurs and engineers between France and Ireland.
- » Share infrastructure expertise and best practices from public and private sectors, including through the launch of a working group on infrastructure led by the France-Ireland Chamber of Commerce.
- » Deepen the ties between Energy ministries through the implementation of the 2023 joint declaration of intent on Energy transition cooperation; support the feasibility study initiated by French and Irish Transmission System Operators (TSOs) for a second electrical interconnector linking Ireland and France; increase cooperation on innovation and research on low-carbon energies, with a particular focus on offshore wind and hydrogen.

- » Engage in early and ongoing political consultations on the future development of the Common Agricultural Policy.
- » Support continued increase in regional air connectivity and maritime connectivity between our two countries, including potential initiatives to encourage seamless sail - rail travel between Ireland and France.
- » Explore possible areas of cooperation in the maritime and port sectors, in favour of accelerating the decarbonisation of shipping and port activities through joint initiatives between ports and shipping operators, for example in the area of green and sustainable maritime corridors.
- » Strengthen cooperation at EU level on supporting the maritime sector by ensuring fair and decent working conditions, while promoting gender equality.
- » Boost collaboration between the Irish and French research and innovation communities, including through participation in European Funding Programmes with the support of the French international technical expert based in Dublin, and through the Ulysses scheme and annual conference.
- » Support the continued cooperation of our higher education institutions within the framework of the European University Alliances, and the Erasmus+ Programme. This includes supporting the development of bilateral ties between French and Irish universities through joint degrees, joint PhDs, academic mobility and scholarships.

## Pillar Two Actions: A fair, safe and sustainable global environment

France and Ireland declare their intent to:

- » Launch early consultations by Foreign Ministers and European Affairs Ministers against the backdrop of Ireland’s 2026 EU Presidency and hosting of the European Political Community, as well as France’s G7 presidency in 2026 and Irish participation in G20 meetings.
- » Increase the frequency of the meetings between French and Irish ministers on priority topics such as security and defence, international development, digital issues, maritime affairs and cultural diversity.
- » Hold annual consultations between the Secretaries-General, Political Directors and EU Directors General of the two foreign ministries.
- » Conduct annual consultations between Foreign Ministries and between Defence Ministries on key issues in their respective remits relating to international security, including peacekeeping and CSDP missions and operations, White Paper for European Defence – Readiness 2030, cyber security, disinformation and hybrid attacks, maritime security; share expertise and cooperate on those issues.
- » Increase regular policy dialogue and consultations between Directors in the Foreign Ministries including those with responsibility for the United Nations and multilateralism, human rights, the Middle East and North Africa, Africa, the Americas, Continental Europe and the Balkans, European neighbourhood, disarmament and Climate.
- » Advance practical project-based Irish participation in Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.
- » Initiate a Franco-Irish forum bringing together researchers and policy planning units of the two Foreign ministries (“1.5 track”).
- » Strengthen our dialogue on the support of vulnerable countries with a view to (i) strengthening joint work on climate finance, potential joint project work on climate adaptation, promotion of water resilience, and protection of biodiversity, (ii) building on successful collaboration during the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris to address food insecurity and malnutrition globally (iii) fostering better coordination in order to maximise the benefits of the World Trade Organisation French Irish Mission Programme (FIMiP) and (iv) advocating for Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and countries affected by conflict.

- » Further our cooperation on the international protection of the Oceans and the governance of marine and coastal areas and resources, in the context of the entry into force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), and towards transforming Mercator Ocean International into an intergovernmental organisation.
- » Cooperate on the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, promote circular economy and work together towards an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.
- » Establish structured bilateral dialogues between the Director of Human Rights in the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and their French counterparts on human rights, women's and girls' rights and LGBTIQ+ rights. Follow up from the 2025 Inter-ministerial Conference on Feminist Foreign policies, and enhance cooperation in support of gender equality, including in the context of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.
- » Expand and deepen our cooperation on security and defence issues, with a particular focus on professional military education and training, defence capabilities, exchange of classified information, cybersecurity, disinformation and hybrid attacks, and maritime security.
- » Consider exploring a collaboration under the EU SAFE Regulation where possible and appropriate, strengthening European security of supply and industrial resilience.
- » Increase our cooperation in training and intelligence sharing between An Garda Síochána, the French National Police and the French Gendarmerie, including in the fight against drug trafficking and money laundering, through the establishment of a French Home Affairs and Police cooperation attaché in Ireland mirroring the Irish counterpart present in France.
- » Strengthen our cooperation on legal and judicial matters, focussed on criminal assets, illicit financial flows, cybercrime, access to electronic evidence and training.

## Pillar Three Actions: Culture, civic discourse and connection

France and Ireland declare their intent to:

- » Continue to expand our regional outreach and representation beyond the capital cities, including through Honorary Consuls and, in Ireland’s case, the strengthening of Ireland’s Honorary Consul Network in France.
- » Encourage contact between our Parliaments, including through the facilitation of parliamentary visits.
- » Explore opportunities for a dialogue, in the context of the implementation of the European Democracy Shield initiative, on the protection of our free and fair elections and democratic resilience, including experiences in countering foreign information manipulations and interference (FIMI), to complement our shared objective of strengthening EU-level co-operation.
- » Strengthen the existing Franco-Irish friendship and expertise networks, such as University alumni groups and former participants in the Programme d’invitation des personnalités d’avenir.
- » Continue to develop the network of French-speaking civil servants in Ireland and establish a Language Interconnector between French and Irish Foreign Ministry staff.
- » Set up new networks in the economic sphere, such as a Young Leaders programme, and a Franco-Irish CEO Council with annual events.
- » Support continued investment in the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris as Ireland’s cultural flagship in Europe.
- » Support the network of Alliances Françaises in Ireland as key players in promoting cultural exchange and Franco-Irish relations.
- » Build on the Film Co-Production Agreement to encourage new cultural collaborations in film and animation, continue to strengthen the French presence in major Irish festivals, enhance the Irish participation at significant film and animation festivals in France.
- » Develop our cooperation in emerging creative industries and innovative cultural sectors such as design, fashion and digital arts in order to reach new audiences.
- » Enhance our support for Irish and French government funded artists residencies in both countries.
- » Increase support for the translation of Irish writing to French (International Translators Day) and presence at French literary festivals including Marché de la Poésie in 2026.
- » Building on the success of the annual Franco-Irish Literary Festival in Dublin, launch a similar event in Paris focusing on ideas and bringing Irish and French writers, academics and public figures together. Support the cooperation between Académie Française and the Royal Irish Academy, including through the Michel Déon Award.

- » Promote the cultural dimension of Francophonie, such as enhanced participation in the annual Francophonie festival in Dublin, and support to universities wishing to join the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) .
- » Set up a programme of events in Ireland and France in 2027 at the initiative of the Normandy Region, to explore our shared Norman heritage and contemporary connections between Ireland and Normandy.
- » Organise an annual ceremony commemorating the Wild Geese in France, including those who fought in the Irish Brigades and the Irish Legion.
- » Enhance the availability of Irish archives in France, and work with Bordeaux on the hosting of an exhibition in the second of 2026, as the first in a series of events celebrating historical ties between the two countries.
- » Promote French language learning in Ireland through strengthened collaboration with Post Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI); mobility of teachers and students; development of the bilateral language assistant programme; and promotion of eTwinning, the European platform for establishing links between schools.
- » Develop a programme of events to mark the establishment of the first university chair in French in the Anglophone World (Trinity 1776).
- » Continue to work together to promote and support Irish Studies in French universities across a range of subject areas, furthering connections between Irish and French faculty and students.
- » Support the consolidation of the growing cooperation in the field of vocational education and training, through partnerships between the relevant French and Irish institutions. This includes the implementation of existing MOUs between academic regions and Education and Training Boards, support to the France-Ireland network for Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Tourism (FICAHT), and implementation of the Declaration of Intent on agricultural education.
- » Deepen the cooperation between the Sport Ireland Institute and Institut National du Sport, de l'Expertise et de la Performance (INSEP) through the sharing of expertise, backing for innovative performance enhancement programmes, the hosting of training camps and joint participation in pan-European projects. Support the growth of Gaelic Games in France including through skills development and youth training.
- » Introduce a dedicated trophy for the Ireland France Six Nations rugby matches.
- » Celebrate our connections in the horse industry through regular "Equestrian days" business events in Dublin and an annual event in Paris timed to coincide with the weekend of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.







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