EPC

European Political Community

IRELAND 2026

Facts and Figures - EPC Summit

The Taoiseach will host the ninth meeting of the European Political Community (EPC) on Thursday 12 November and an informal meeting of EU Heads of State or Government on Friday 13 November.

The EPC is an informal forum for Leaders to hold political and strategic discussions on issues of shared concern established in 2022 after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It meets twice per year.

The group first met in October 2022 in Prague, and the ninth meeting will take place in Dublin on Thursday, 12 November 2026.

Around 50 Leaders will attend what is the biggest gathering of Heads of State or Government ever held in Ireland.

Leaders from all EU countries, the wider European neighbourhood, the EU institutions and other European organisations and international organisations have been invited.

Stretching from Iceland to Armenia and Azerbaijan, this brings in 47 countries representing over 700 million people and, on this occasion, Prime Minister Carney has also been invited.

The theme of the summit in Dublin is: *Europe – strong, secure, and connected*.

Discussions will cover a range of issues including strengthening Europe's economy in the face of geopolitical challenges, promoting innovation and connectivity across the continent, supporting Ukraine in the face of Russia's continuing war of aggression, and addressing hybrid threats and efforts to undermine democracy.

Informal meetings of EU Heads of State or Government provide an opportunity for EU leaders to have a discussion on strategic topics outside of the formal meetings of the European Council in Brussels. The meeting will be chaired by the President of the European Council, António Costa.

The meeting in Dublin will have a strategic discussion on AI, the first such discussion among EU leaders.

The discussion will focus on the opportunities of AI and how it can help drive Europe's competitiveness as well as the societal impacts, risks and the safety of AI.

The EU Leaders will also consider developments in respect of Ukraine.

EPC Dinner

On the evening of the EPC Summit next Thursday, the Taoiseach will host dinner for his international counterparts at the National Gallery of Ireland, home to one of Europe's most significant national collections.

This will offer a unique opportunity to showcase the best of Irish hospitality and culture. The focus will be on Irish seasonal, sustainable and organic food and the menu will include wild salmon and Irish beef.

How many media have registered?

Over 800 national and international media are registered and we expect 450 – 500 to attend.

How many delegates will attend?

With over 50 delegations, some 500 participants are expected.

How long planning for the summits been underway?

Planning for the EPC has been underway for well over two years now.

The first planning meeting of officials was back in September 2024, and the Government has received regular planning updates since then.

It has involved great collaboration right across the public service, including An Garda Síochána, Dublin City Council, many civil servants and others.

How many people does it take to deliver the event on the day?

It is a huge undertaking. Overall, some 2,000 between the staff at the Convention Centre and all the suppliers and contractors who need to set it up.

Others are involved in other aspects of the EPC and the informal European Council that happens on Friday, ensuring that it all that it all goes smoothly for the delegations who will be with us from all over Europe.

How was the summit venue selected?

There was a comprehensive and robust assessment process undertaken over about six months, looking at venues in Dublin and in other parts of the country.

As the largest ever gathering of international leaders held in Ireland, the requirements for the venue reflect that unique scale and Convention Centre Dublin came out of the process as the best venue for that.

The selection process took into account all of the logistical and security requirements for an event on that scale. An Garda Síochána was also part of the consultation.

The procurement process was also overseen by the Office of Government Procurement and the Chief State Solicitor's Office.

OPW – State Event Management

There has been excellent cross Government coordination and co-operation across the various departments. and agencies, as well as the support from the Irish event industry, working towards showcasing Ireland at its best for this visit to Ireland of our European friends and neighbours.

OPW are providing venues and logistical support to the Irish presidency of the EU as they've done over numerous presidencies in the past. A programme of refurbish State Conference Venues has been ongoing for the last 2 years and this includes the installation of the most up to date technologies. These works will be an asset to the state for many years to come, and it's interesting to note that the investments previously made for the presidency of 2004 and 2013 are still being rolled out to support the 200+ events to date during the current presidency programme, across the country.

There is over 110km of cable being used for the EPC/iEUCO event in CCD. There is also close 100 interpretation booths based across Dublin for the EPC/iEUCO conference to facilitate the 24 languages being spoken and listened to simultaneously during the conference.

The horticulture on display throughout the venue showcases a variety of plants from different OPW sites. These include Derrynane House in Kerry, Garnish Island in Cork, Glebe in Donegal and Dublin's Phoenix Park.

The theme for the conference is ***Europe, Strong, Secure and Connected*** and these important words are depicted in Ogham writing on totem structures within the Leader's areas.

The OPW have attained ISO accreditation for *Sustainable Event Management Systems* that are being adhered to throughout this Presidency.

AGS

This week is the largest Policing and Security Operation ever implemented by An Garda Síochána in their over 100 year proud tradition of serving Ireland, Larger than any previous US Presidential visits.

Every member of An Garda Síochána will be involved either directly policing the events in Dublin or indirectly ensuring policing continuity in our communities across the country.

The Government would like to thank the members of An Garda Síochána who will be deployed on this policing and security operation and who have been deployed on many EU events over the last number of months and the operation for the visit of President Trump and the Irish Open Golf in Clare.

The Government would also like to thank the families of members of An Garda Síochána, their support is invaluable and part of the hidden effort to provide such large scale policing and security operations.

Members of An Garda Síochána have never been found wanting in policing these large scale international events.

Over a 72-hour period (11/ 12/ 13 November) over 15,000 12hr shifts will be carried out by members of An Garda Síochána.

To support this effort over 35,000 hot, sit down, meals will be provided

Welfare officers will be on duty at every location, welfare supports, water, hot drinks, snacks, fruit is all provided for members at the frontline

An Garda Síochána has procured new fleet of motorcycles, patrol cars and vans, new motorcycle and public order uniforms and equipment all of which will remain available after the event for the ongoing day to day policing of the country

An Garda Síochána has procured the most up to date counter drone detection and mitigation systems, as good or better than any other EU country

An Garda Síochána will do their upmost to support local communities most impacted by these events and the wider business community in Dublin City Centre

Traffic Disruption

An extensive policing and security operation will come into effect on Tuesday 10 November.

Every effort is being made to minimise disruption to the public and to businesses, while policing these important events safely and successfully. Due to their scale and complexity, the summits are a significant logistical undertaking with unprecedented security considerations.

These security considerations and measures will impact those who live, work and study in the areas around the Convention Centre, the National Gallery and on routes between Dublin Airport, Casement Aerodrome (Baldonnel) and several city hotels, as well as public transport users.

If you are planning to travel to Dublin City, Dublin Airport or Dublin Port on the 10, 11, 12 or 13 of November, it is important to check the latest public transport information and plan your journey accordingly. Certain roads will be closed, public

transport routes diverted, and delays are expected. Leave plenty of time for your journey and continue to monitor updates across social media.

Many bus routes in central Dublin and some Luas Red Line services will experience significant disruption from Tuesday to Friday.

Updated Information on the summits is available on garda.ie.

Updated public transport information is available from the Transport for Ireland website and individual service operators.

Convention Centre Dublin

The Convention Centre Dublin has hosted more than 2,500 events since it opened its doors in September 2010 and welcomed over 2 million visitors and delegates.

In the 16 years since it opened, The CCD has delivered more than 424,000 international conference delegates.

The CCD has won a total of 69 major industry awards, including Europe's Leading Meetings and Conference Centre at the World Travel Awards every year for the past decade.

The CCD was the World's First Carbon-Neutrally-Constructed Venue.

The distinctive, forward-tilted glass cylinder and curved facade were designed by the renowned Irish-born American Pritzker Prize-winning architect Kevin Roche.

The building features a sweeping 55-meter-high glass atrium that offers panoramic views of the River Liffey, Dublin city centre, and the Wicklow Mountains.

In June 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the venue was used for temporary sittings of Dáil Éireann (the Irish parliament) and the election of the Taoiseach to allow for proper social distancing.

While built via a Public Private Partnership and operated under a long-term licence, the facility is state-owned by Ireland