



Tweede Kamer

DER STATEN-GENERAAL

Standing Committee on European Affairs

Datum: 9 april 2026

H.E. Thomas Byrne T.D.
Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence
Roinn an Taoisigh
Department of the Taoiseach
Aire Stáit do Ghnóthaí Eorpacha agus Cosanta
Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence

Subject: Views Committee on European Affairs on Ireland's upcoming Presidency

Dear Thomas, dear colleague,

Thank you for your letter of 9 March 2026, inviting the Committee on European Affairs of the House of Representative of the Netherlands to give its view on possible high-level Presidency themes for Ireland's Presidency. The Committee welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Presidency agenda.

The upcoming Irish presidency commences at a challenging time, while the European Union is faced with many complex geopolitical developments. The ambition of the Irish Presidency as outlined in your letter reflects the urgency surrounding these issues.

Allow me to share with you the views of the Committee on European Affairs. The Committee suggests that during their Presidency, Ireland may contribute to the development of a strong and modernised Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), with enhanced attention to climate, innovation, science, and defence. Furthermore, it is suggested that the Presidency give due consideration to the timely implementation of the Draghi Report, including its proposed democratic reforms, as well as to exploring pathways towards the gradual phasing out of the veto in the area of foreign and defence policy.

I thank you again for the opportunity to exchange views on the upcoming Presidency. On behalf of the Committee, I wish you good luck with the preparations for the Presidency. We look forward to working with you to deliver a successful Presidency.

Sincerely,

R.F. Van Meetelen
Chair of the Committee on European Affairs
House of Representatives of The Netherlands