

Annual Report 2024

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CHAIRPERSON STATEMENT



It has been a real privilege to take on the role of Chairperson of the Institute of International and European Affairs in 2024. I do so with deep respect for the foundations that have been laid over many years and with a strong sense of responsibility to support the IIEA's continued relevance and resilience in an increasingly complex global landscape.

As I look back on this past year, I am struck by the growing importance of institutions like the IIEA. In a world that can often feel polarised, reactive, and overwhelmed by the speed of information, this organisation continues to offer something rare and essential—a space to think. A place to ask questions, test hypotheses, consider nuance, and engage in informed, respectful and open discussion on international and European policy developments that affect Ireland and the world.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of Terence O'Rourke, who, following in the footsteps of Ruairí Quinn, served as Interim Chairperson with great dedication since 2022. Terence's leadership over those transitional years helped to ensure the IIEA remained forward-looking and deeply connected to its core mission.

Your Board is key to helping the Director General and the team to chart the course of the IIEA for the years ahead. We are in a period of transition where some of our directors, who have given great years of service, are required to retire for the sake of good corporate governance. In 2024, we saw Marie Cross, Terence O'Rourke and Terry Neill retire from the IIEA Board and we welcomed two new elected Board members, Dr Orlaigh Quinn and Michael Patten.

The expertise, insight, and commitment on the IIEA Board has been, and will continue to be, invaluable in the years ahead. I want to express sincere thanks to all members, past and present, for their time, energy, and guidance.

Together, we are shaping the IIEA's future with ambition and care.

We were deeply saddened by the passing of John Bruton in 2024. John was a long-time Board member, friend and supporter of the IIEA, and his contribution to public life in Ireland and Europe was immense. He is missed, and we remember him with gratitude.

Throughout the year, I have worked closely with our Director General, Alex White, whose steady leadership continues to drive the IIEA forward. Under his guidance, it has remained a trusted, independent forum for debate, dialogue and policy engagement. The events, publications and networks of 2024 reflected both the depth and the diversity of our programme. From security and climate to economics, migration and digital policy, the IIEA continued to analyse and communicate the major global trends shaping Ireland's policy environment.

We remain grateful for the ongoing support of all of our members, for the operating grant we receive from the European Commission, and for the strong partnership we enjoy with the Department of Foreign Affairs, as our principal project funder. We also thank our other project partners, whose support enables the wide-ranging and high-quality work the IIEA delivers year-round.

On behalf of the Board, I want to express our appreciation to Alex and to the entire IIEA team. Across research, events, publications, communications, administration and finance, their professionalism, commitment and collaboration are at the heart of the IIEA's success. I also extend thanks to our members, supporters, and partner organisations. Your engagement strengthens our community and ensures the IIEA's continued relevance in a rapidly changing world.

Feargal O'Rourke

DIRECTOR GENERAL STATEMENT



Looking back on 2024, it feels as though the world was holding its breath. Global events unfolded with intensity—wars persisted, elections reshaped political landscapes, and technologies like AI advanced at unprecedented speed. In this climate of uncertainty, the IIEA’s role—to provide context, insight, and analysis of global policy trends—has never been more relevant or more vital.

2024 was widely described as *the year of elections*, yet other forces defined the global agenda too: security, climate, AI, and geopolitics. These themes were reflected throughout our work. The IIEA hosted 158 events over the year, attracting more than 17,000 registrations and over 9,000 attendances. We published over 45 papers, blogs and briefings. Our goal remained clear: to support decision-makers, business leaders and citizens with trusted, timely insight into an increasingly complex world.

Alongside these headline issues, we continued to engage on a broad range of topics—economics, EU affairs, disability and health policy, justice, migration, and international development. This breadth ensures that our work reflects the interconnected nature of global and domestic policy challenges.

Our events brought together leading thinkers from across sectors and geographies. Notable speakers included Siofra O’Leary, President of the European Court of Human Rights; Nadia Calviño, President of the European Investment Bank; Philip Lane, Chief Economist at the ECB; Admiral Rob Bauer of NATO; and Willie Walsh, Director-General of IATA. We also welcomed Dr Mike Ryan of the WHO, journalist Lara Marlowe, environmentalist and author George Monbiot, and former French Prime Minister, Édouard Philippe.

Through our Young Professionals Network (YPN), we deepened engagement with a younger audience, featuring speakers like journalist and author Sally Hayden;

Federica Mogherini, former EU High Representative; and Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform, Paschal Donohoe.

Our publications too provided timely analysis on Europe’s digital policy, the rise of the far right, and the implications of national and European elections. One standout publication—the *Northern Ireland Subvention* paper by Edgar Morgenroth and John Fitzgerald—sparked significant cross-border discussion and exemplified our commitment to evidence-based policy debate. The *Future-Proofing Europe* series continued to offer a vital lens on EU policymaking while other topics, such as our paper on the question of fraudulent honey in the EU, demonstrated the diversity and relevance of our work.

Our impact in 2024 would not have been possible without the ongoing support of our partners. We were proud to work once again with ESB on *Accelerate: The Transition to a Net Zero Future*, our biennial flagship climate conference. With over 300 delegates in attendance, this event featured contributions from leading international and Irish voices, including Michael Liebreich, then Minister Eamon Ryan, and ESB CEO Paddy Hayes.

We are also grateful for our collaboration with Enterprise Ireland, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, and Gas Networks Ireland. Our longstanding partnerships with Irish Aid—on the *Development Matters* series—and the Department of Foreign Affairs—on *Future-Proofing Europe*—continued to flourish.

In 2024, we also began our project with the European Climate Foundation (ECF). *Pathways: Ireland’s Agricultural Future* is a unique initiative convening stakeholders from across Ireland’s agri-food and climate sectors, with the aim of supporting constructive dialogue on how the sector can meet its climate obligations.

My thanks go to the IIEA Board for their continued leadership and support, to our members for their engagement and trust, and to the IIEA team. The expertise, creativity, and professionalism of our staff are what make our work possible.

As we look ahead to 2025, in the rapidly changing world still unfolding around us, the IIEA remains committed to offering clarity, promoting understanding, and informing the decisions that shape our collective future.

Alex White SC

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH STATEMENT



Against a turbulent geopolitical backdrop, the IIEA delivered a coordinated programme of research activities and events throughout 2024. Once more, IIEA members gained access to cutting-edge analysis, some of the world's foremost thought leaders, and expert debate and discussion.

As aptly noted in the Director General's statement, a highlight of 2024 was the Accelerate Conference, which took place in April as part of the RETHINK Energy series, a partnership between the IIEA and ESB. The IIEA also launched a project with the European Climate Foundation looking at the prospects for sustainable agriculture.

Amid the increased salience of matters of security and defence across Europe, the IIEA's work in this area considered the ongoing impact of Russia's war in Ukraine, the nature of hybrid warfare, attempts to tackle disinformation, and the importance of protecting critical infrastructure. The IIEA's digital policy programme tackled some of the debates, trends, and policy interventions that are reshaping our lives and relationships, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), privacy, skills development, and digital regulation including the EU's Digital Markets Act (DMA) and Digital Services Act (DSA).

As the world prepared for the departure of President Joe Biden and EU-UK relations took on a less contentious tone, our economics programme explored issues relating to competitiveness, inflation, fiscal policy, and economic security. The UK policy programme reflected on the outworkings of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union (EU) some four years on, the importance of reconciliation and 'building common ground' in Northern Ireland, and the potential cost of Irish unity, including with a widely-cited paper on the subject by John Fitzgerald and Edgar Morgenroth.

Our EU programme looked in on the bloc's sanctions regime against Russia, EU-China relations, the consequences of the European Parliament elections, the nature of EU disability policy and EU-Africa relations. The France and Germany programme continued to examine political and legal developments in these countries, while the IIEA's health programme focused attention on the increasing role of the EU in health policy.

With so much to choose from, the IIEA's geopolitics programme considered matters including the rise of authoritarianism, the wars in Gaza and Ukraine, illicit finance, democracy in the United States, and various elections from around the world. The Justice and Home Affairs Programme considered matters of media freedom, crimes against cultural heritage, and the future of the European Court of Justice.

Supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Future Proofing Europe project considered themes including in relation to EU enlargement, trade policy, and the rise of right-wing populism as well the future of EU policy and pathways to accession from a range of different perspectives.

The IIEA's Development Matters series, sponsored by Irish Aid, explored critical issues in international development, including tensions in the Horn of Africa, food systems, access to justice, health emergencies, the green transition, and more.

The IIEA's Young Professionals Network (YPN) brings together people in the first decades of their careers as well as students with leading figures from the worlds of politics, business, culture, and the media. In 2024 the YPN considered AI, the Eurozone economy with Minister for Finance and Eurogroup President Paschal Donohoe, and the movement of refugees and migrants in the Mediterranean Sea among much else.

In 2024, the IIEA's research programme sought to promote informed discussion and debate around matters of import in public policy and international affairs for Ireland. Amid the increasing tumult in global affairs, there has never been a greater need for sober, patient analysis.

Dr Barry Colfer

RESEARCH OUTPUT 2024



158
events



46
publications



17,161
registrations

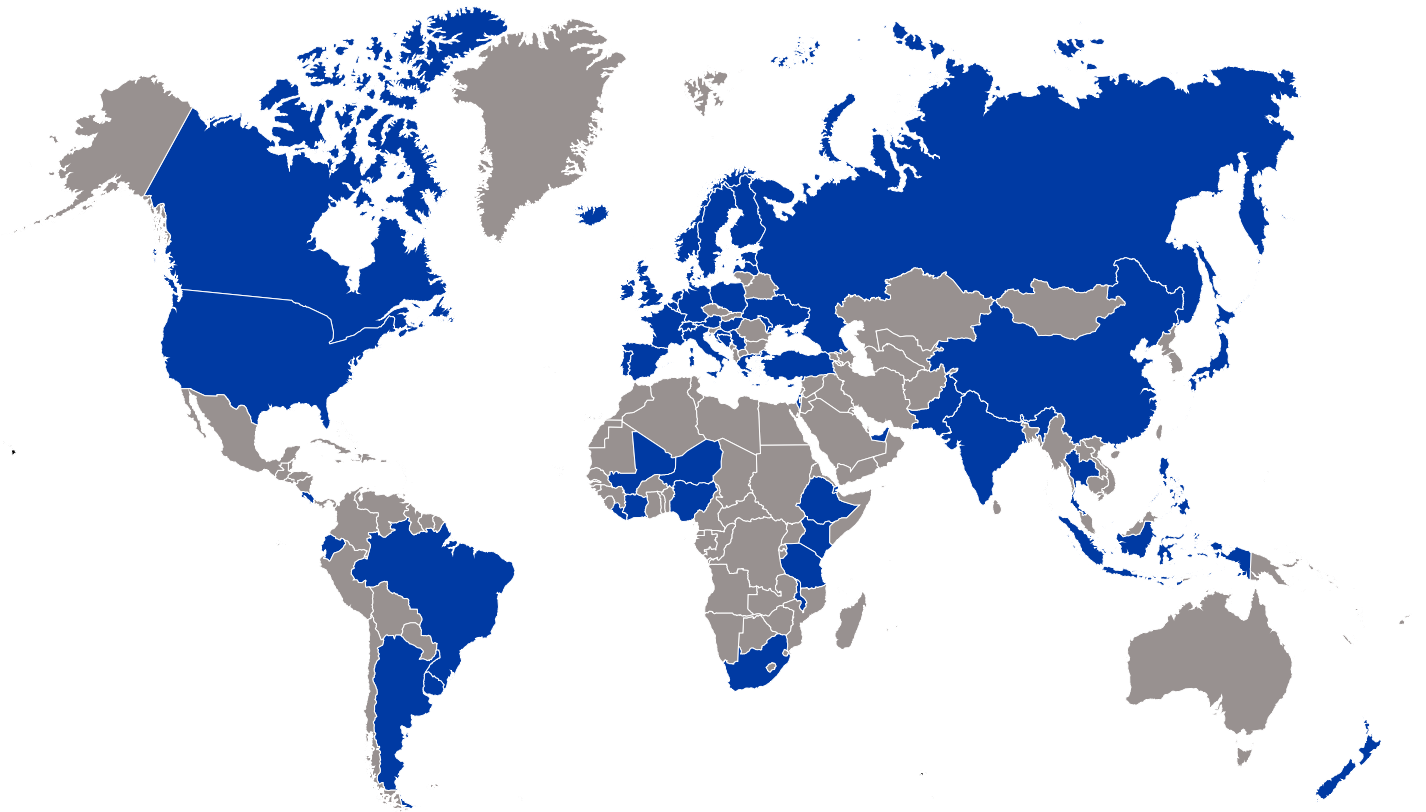


7,161
attendances



16
policy areas

AUDIENCE REACH IN 2024



Argentina	Finland	Liberia	Serbia
Austria	France	Luxembourg	Singapore
Belgium	Germany	Malawi	South Africa
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece	Mali	Spain
Brazil	Hong Kong SAR	Malta	Sweden
Canada	Hungary	Moldova, Republic of	Switzerland
China	Iceland	Netherlands	Tanzania
Costa Rica	India	New Zealand	Thailand
Côte d'Ivoire	Indonesia	Niger	Tunisia
Croatia	Ireland	Nigeria	Turkey
Cyprus	Israel	Norway	Ukraine
Denmark	Italy	Pakistan	United Arab Emirates
Djibouti	Japan	Philippines	United Kingdom
Ecuador	Jersey	Poland	United States
Estonia	Kenya	Portugal	Uruguay
Ethiopia	Latvia	Russia	

Based on in-person and online registrations in 2024

HIGHLIGHTS 2024

Accelerate Conference,
Dublin Convention Centre



Frances Fitzgerald, then Member of the European
Parliament



Development Matters launch event with Sean Fleming, Minister
of State for International Development and Diaspora



Young Professionals' Network event with Paschal Donohoe, then Minister for Public Expenditure,
NDP Delivery and Reform



Dr Mike Ryan, Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme



Ireland's Voice in Europe: In Conversation with Midlands-North-West MEPs



Siofra O'Leary, President of the European Court of Human Rights



Panel discussion The Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in 2024 and Beyond



Phillip Lane, Chief Economist of the European Central Bank

PARTNERS AND PROJECT SUPPORTERS IN 2024

Amazon

Apple

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV)

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Department of Foreign Affairs (Global Europe and Future-Proofing Europe)

Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

Economic Regulators Network (ERN)

Electricity Supply Board (ESB)

Environmental Protection Agency

European Climate Foundation

European Parliament Liaison Office

European Commission Representative Dublin

Gas Networks Ireland

Irish Aid

SSE Airtricity

amazon



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs



Enterprise
Ireland



Gas
Networks
Ireland



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs



Environmental Protection Agency
An Ghníomhaíochtair um Chaomhúil (Comhaltóir)



Economic
Regulators
NETWORK



An Roinn Fiontar,
Trádála agus Fostaíochta
Department of Enterprise,
Trade and Employment



European
Climate
Foundation



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt,
Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce
Department of Justice,
Home Affairs and Migration



European
Commission



Energy for
generations



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science



European Parliament
Liaison Office
in Ireland

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

FUTURE-PROOFING EUROPE

Chair: Marie Cross

Researcher: Dylan Casey Marshall, Tara Kukec, Heather Burke

The *Future-Proofing Europe* project, supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs, aims to address, analyse, and communicate to a wider public the debates on a range of priority issues for Ireland and the EU. In 2024, the Future-Proofing Europe project was comprised of five thematic priorities: EU enlargement; rule of law; European Parliament elections; institutional changes following the EP elections; and EU competitiveness, cohesion, and trade.

Enlargement of the European Union

In order to provide its audience with an in-depth analysis of the enlargement of the European Union from various angles, the IIEA hosted five speakers, each of whom gave their perspective on the topic. These were delivered from the points of view of a core Member State, a third-enlargement Member State, the youngest Member State, a candidate country, and the European Commission. **Anna Lührmann**, Minister of State for Europe and Climate at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, spoke about *EU Enlargement and Reform: Why It Matters and How It Can Be Done – A German Perspective*. **Tiago Antunas**, Secretary of State for European Affairs of Portugal, discussed *Getting Ready for Enlargement: The EU's Homework*. **Andreja Metelko-Zgombić**, State Secretary for Europe at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, gave a speech entitled *EU Enlargement and the Western Balkans – A Croatian Perspective*. **Mihai Popșoi**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Moldova, provided *A Moldovan Perspective on EU Accession and Integration*. Finally, **Gert Jan Koopman**, Director-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations at the European Commission, concluded the series with *The 2024 EU Enlargement Package: Perspectives from the European Commission on Building a Bigger and Stronger Union*.



Andreja Metelko-Zgombić, State Secretary for Europe at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia



Mihai Popșoi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Moldova

IIEA Member Alan Dukes wrote an analytical paper on *Future-Proofing the EU Budget – Reflections and Recommendations on Political, Legal and Economic Challenges*. Furthermore, Researcher Tara Kukec produced two blogs entitled *Crunch Time for Enlargement* and *The Changing Mood Music of EU Enlargement*, in which she examined the outcomes of the December 2023 European Council and marked the 20th anniversary of the largest single expansion of the European Union to date, respectively.

Rule of Law, Protection of Democracy, and the Rise of the Far Right in Europe

Two speaker engagements took place to assess the rule of law, democracy, and rise of the far right in Europe. **Pervenche Berès** and **Nicolai von Ondarza**, Members of the Franco-German Working Group on EU Institutional Reform, discussed EU institutional reform in a panel discussion entitled *Sailing on the High Seas: Reforming and Enlarging the EU for the 21st Century*. **Gerald Knaus**, Founder and Chairman of the European Stability Initiative, delved into *Addressing Myths and Misconceptions Amidst the Rise of Right-Wing Populism*.

Researcher Dylan Marshall wrote a paper on *The Rise of the Far-Right and European Parliament Elections - A Point of No Return?*, which was accompanied by an infographic, *Taking the Temperature of the Far-Right in the EU*, illustrating the strength of the EU's moderate/far-right parties across Member States. Two explainers were also published on *The Rise of the Far-Right in Austria* and *Protecting Democracy and Rule of Law by Future-proofing the Constitutional Court – a German Response to the Rise of the Far-Right*. This was followed by Researcher Heather Burke's explainer on *Championing Democracy and Rule of Law in the EU - An Analysis of the Portfolio of Commissioner-designate Michael McGrath*.

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

European Parliament Elections

Under this thematic priority, **Anders Adlercreutz**, Minister for European Affairs and Ownership Steering of Finland, gave a speech entitled *Finland's Priorities and Challenges as We Look Beyond the 2024 European Parliament Elections*.

Researcher Dylan Marshall published a blog on *The Outcome of the European Parliament Elections – A Kaleidoscope of Combinations*, which was preceded by three explainers: (i) *Easy Guide to the European Parliament Elections*, (ii) *European Political Parties, Lead Candidates and the 2024 European Elections*; and (iii) *A Post-Election Guide to the New European Parliament 2024-2029*.

Institutional Change Following the European Parliament Elections

Researcher Dylan Marshall wrote an analytical paper on the proposed new structure of the European Commission from a political and a policy perspective, *An Ugly Cobweb or A New Broom? – An Analysis of the New Structure of the European Commission*. The blog was accompanied by two infographics on *Changing the Guard: A Timeline of Changes to the Leadership in EU Institutions* and *An Overview of the Proposed College of Commissioners for the 2024-2029 Mandate*.

EU Competitiveness, Cohesion, and Trade

Sabine Weyand, Director-General for Trade at the European Commission, addressed the IIEA on *EU Trade – Challenges and Opportunities in a Rapidly Changing Environment*, in which she discussed the EU's trade policy amidst the changing geo-economic and political landscape.

Three publications were also produced under this theme. The Future-Proofing Europe group wrote an analytical paper on *Future-Proofing EU Competitiveness – Critical Reflections on the Draghi Report*. A member of the group, Alan Dukes, also wrote an explainer entitled *Future-Proofing the EU Budget – Issues in the Review of the EU 2021-2027 MFF*. Lastly, Researcher Dylan Marshall examined the key points of a new European Economic Security Strategy to complement the Defence of Democracy Package in a blog entitled *The Big Reveal? Europe's New Economic Security Strategy*.

Private Policy Roundtables and Public Panel Discussion

Two roundtables and one panel discussion took place under the auspices of the *Future-Proofing Europe* project in 2024.

The *German-Irish Joint Vision Forum* is an annual event for deepening understanding between the German and Irish policy communities and this year featured three thematic panels on (i) *Challenges and Opportunities when Looking Towards EU Reform during the 2024-2029 Mandate*, (ii) *Enlargement, Fundamental Values, Migration, and Rule of Law*, and (iii) *The Transatlantic Relationship*.

A Private Policy Roundtable on Poland and Ireland in the EU was held at the IIEA in which **H.E. Artur Michalski**, Head of Mission of the Polish Embassy to Ireland, and **Breifne O Reilly**, Director of EU Enlargement and Southeast Europe in the Department of Foreign Affairs, briefed an expert group on Poland and Ireland in the EU and on Poland's upcoming Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Lastly, the IIEA hosted a public panel discussion in conjunction with the Embassies of Ukraine and Canada to Ireland on *The Road Back: Reintegrating Ukrainian Children Unlawfully Deported to Russia*.

Digital Ideas Lab

Researcher Tara Kukec produced a series of weekly bulletins providing comprehensive updates on activities across EU institutions, entitled *EU Review – The Week Ahead*.

A podcast series was also launched within the Digital Ideas Lab. Ahead of the European Parliament elections in June 2024, Researcher Dylan Marshall interviewed former President of the European Parliament, **Pat Cox**, about his views on the impact of the rise of the right in Europe on the European Parliament Elections, entitled *European Elections in a Changing World*. Researcher Heather Burke presented the second podcast of the year with **John MacMenamin**, retired Judge of the Supreme Court of Ireland, on the *Rule of Law in Europe*, in which they explored the importance of the rule of law in ensuring the future of the EU.

FUTURE-PROOFING EUROPE



Top: Anna Lührmann, Minister of State for Europe and Climate at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Middle: Tiago Antunes, Secretary of State for European Affairs of Portugal

Bottom: Dr Sabine Weyand, Director-General for Trade at the European Commission

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

EU AFFAIRS

Chairs: Various

Researcher: Emma Richardson

The IIEA's EU Affairs programme continued in 2024 with a major focus on the European Parliament Elections, which took place from 6 to 9 June. The programme produced seven events and three publications.

The programme commenced in February, with **David O'Sullivan**, EU Sanctions Envoy, reflecting on the objectives of sanctions against Russia and his role so far. Ahead of the European Parliament Elections, **Alberto Alemanno**, Jean Monnet Professor of European Union Law & Policy at HEC Paris, gave a keynote address sharing his views on the state of the European Union and the major political, legal and public policy trends. In May, former President of the European Council, **Herman Van Rompuy**, discussed global developments and how these relate to the European challenges of our time. Just after the European Parliament elections, the IIEA hosted a panel discussion as part of the 'What's Next' series with **Professor John O'Brennan**, Director of the Maynooth Centre for European and Eurasian studies; **Frances Fitzgerald**, Member of the European Parliament (2019 - 2024); and **Marian Harkin TD**, Member of the European Parliament (2004 – 2019), to discuss the post-election-processes and the formation of the new Commission. In October, the IIEA hosted **Dr Anna Elomäki**, Academy Research Fellow at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Tampere University, Finland, to discuss new research perspectives on the European Parliament and the dynamics within and between its political groups, focusing on the contested field of social policy.

In addition to the pre- and post-European Parliament election events, the Institute also welcomed **Lutz Güllner**, Head of Division for Strategic Communications and Information Analysis at the European External Action Service, to discuss the issue of disinformation and foreign information manipulation and their implications for the EU's democratic resilience. Outside of the European Parliament elections, the programme highlighted "What's next?" *The Rise and Normalisation of the Far Right in the Netherlands* in conversation with **Dr Léonie de Jonge**, Assistant Professor in European Politics and Society at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, and the Portuguese general election in Emma Richardson's blog, *The 2024 Portuguese Elections: A Swing to the Right*.

The EU Affairs programme also produced two papers, the first entitled *Citizens' Juries and Spatial Planning - A Formula for Change?* by Edmond Grace, which explores the role of citizens' juries in the context of spatial planning in Ireland and their use in deliberative processes within the European Union. The second paper, *A Sticky Situation: Fraudulent Honey in the EU*, written by EU Affairs Researcher Emma Richardson, explores the effectiveness of current EU regulations and international cooperation in detecting and preventing honey fraud.

FRANCE AND GERMANY

Chair: Katherine Meenan

Researcher: Anna Merl and Dylan Casey Marshall

During 2024, the IIEA's France and Germany programme looked at several pressing topics, including, domestic political crises facing the two nations, and security and defence.

Dr Ronja Kempin, Senior Fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, gave an address entitled *Franco-German Cooperation and the Ukraine War*. Dr Kempin discussed how the two nations have pursued different policies in an array of policy areas and failed to achieve significant progress on EU enlargement and reform. She addressed the reasons behind the strained relationship between the two countries and assessed how to bridge the divide between Berlin and Paris.

France

In July 2024, **Édouard Philippe**, Mayor of Le Havre and former Prime Minister of France, delivered a keynote address at the IIEA entitled *The Place of France and the EU in the Face of Global Upheavals*. He discussed the shifting global power dynamics, waning multilateralism, defence policy alignment and, in doing so, highlighted the necessity of a united Europe to effectively respond to these issues.



Édouard Philippe, Mayor of Le Havre and former Prime Minister of France

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Following the snap legislative elections called by President Emmanuel Macron, the IIEA hosted a panel event on the topic with **Dr Elodie Fabre**, Lecturer in Politics and International Studies at Queen's University Belfast, and **Mathieu Gallard**, Research Director at Ipsos France. The two experts broke down voting trends, electoral issues, the results and possible new government, and what the results may mean for France's domestic and international policy.

Germany

Dr Benjamin Tallis, Senior Research Fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations, delivered a webinar entitled *The Zeitenwende is Not Enough – Germany Needs a Grand Strategy*. In his address, Dr Tallis argued that the *Zeitenwende*, Germany's security transformation, remains incomplete and that the Scholz government needs to finish the task it started

In June 2024, **Professor Tobias Lock**, Professor of Law at Maynooth University, delivered an address entitled *Lessons for Irish Reunification from Germany*. During this event, Prof. Lock noted that, like German reunification, Irish reunification would necessitate complex legal negotiations at multiple governance levels. Further, he argued that legal techniques used in Germany, such as frontloading, transition periods, and conflict rules, could also be effectively applied to Irish reunification.

In December 2024, **Derek Scally**, Berlin Correspondent for The Irish Times, delivered a year in review of German politics. He focused on Germany's place in Europe, the economic difficulties facing the country and the disintegration of the traffic light coalition while looking towards the federal elections scheduled for early 2025.



Derek Scally, Berlin Correspondent for the Irish Times

DEMOCRACY PROGRAMME

Chairs: Seamus Allen

Researcher: Various

2024 was widely regarded as a pivotal year for democracy amidst a record year for elections and growing concerns about democratic backsliding. The IIEA Democracy Programme focused on some key topics relevant to these developments, including media freedom, far-right populism, and twenty-first century authoritarianism.

In the event *Media Freedom and Pluralism in Europe: Threats, Challenges, and Opportunities*, the IIEA was addressed by **Renate Schroeder**, Director of the European Federation of Journalists. Ms Schroeder discussed developments in media freedom and pluralism in Europe in recent years. She also assessed the lessons that can be learned by the media sector, civil society, policymakers, and other stakeholders to strengthen the protection of media freedom.



Renate Schroeder, Director of the European Federation of Journalists

In the event *Democracy Erodes from the Top: Misperceptions about the Populist Challenge*, **Professor Larry M. Bartels**, Professor of Political Science and Law at Vanderbilt University discussed his recent book: *Democracy Erodes from the Top: Leaders, Citizens and the Challenge of Populism in Europe*. Prof. Bartels challenged the narrative of a populist wave in contemporary European public opinion, arguing that electoral support for right-wing populist parties had increased only modestly, driven by populist entrepreneurs, the failures of mainstream parties, and media hype. He argued that Europe's democratic backsliding reflects the ambitions of political leaders rather than public opinion. Finally, in the event *Authoritarianism in the 21st Century: From Fear to Spin – How Dictatorship is Changing*, the IIEA welcomed **Professor Daniel Treisman**, Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Los Angeles. Prof. Treisman discussed his new book: *Spin Dictators: The Changing Face of Tyranny in the 21st Century*, which discusses the

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

emergence of a new type of authoritarian regime that is better adapted to ruling sophisticated, globally connected societies. Prof. Treisman outlined how these authoritarian regimes rely less on violent repression and instead rely more heavily on the manipulation of information.



Professor Daniel Treisman, Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Los Angeles

VON DER LEYEN'S NEW TEAM – WHAT NEXT FOR EUROPE?

European Commission Representation and the European Parliament Liaison Office

In conjunction with the European Commission Representation and the European Parliament Liaison Office in Ireland, the IIEA organised the event: *Von der Leyen's New Team – What Next for Europe?* in November 2024. The event marked President von der Leyen's address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg to present her new team. An expert panel discussed the composition of the Commission and the implications for Europe and its place in the world.

The panel particularly reflected on the challenges that President von der Leyen's new team might face over the coming years and the backdrop of forthcoming general elections in the likes of Ireland and Germany. The panel for the event included: **Catherine Day**, Former Secretary General of the European Commission; **John O'Brennan**, Professor of European Politics at Maynooth University; and **Dan O'Brien**, Chief Economist of the IIEA. It was moderated by **Eileen Dunne**, former RTE newsreader and former International President of the Association of European Journalists.



Eileen Dunne, John O'Brennan and Catherine Day

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

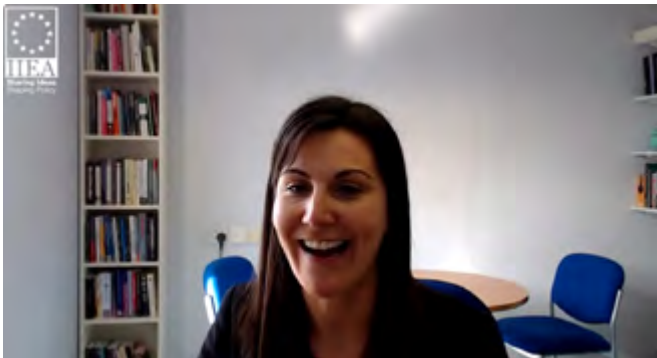
UK AFFAIRS

Chair: Daithí O’Ceallaigh

Researcher: Emma Richardson

The IIEA’s longstanding UK programme continued in 2024. The aim of the UK programme is to examine the relationship between the UK and the EU and its implications for Ireland, the latest developments in UK politics, and the constitutional future of the UK itself.

The UK’s General Election was a major focus of the IIEA’s UK programme in 2024. Providing insight and analysis to members ahead of the General Election, the IIEA welcomed **Peter Foster**, Public Policy Editor of the Financial Times in February; **Dr Anna Sanders**, Assistant Professor in British Politics at the University of York in March; and **Michael Kenny**, Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy at the University of Cambridge in June. Post-election, the ‘What’s Next’ Series saw **Dr Tim Oliver**, Director of Studies, and Senior Lecturer for the Institute for Diplomacy and International Governance, Loughborough University, and **Dr Lisa Claire Whitten**, Research Fellow at Queen’s University Belfast, discuss the implications and outcomes of the election.



Dr Anna Sanders, Assistant Professor in British Politics at the University of York

The IIEA continued also to explore the topic of Northern Ireland, its place in the UK and its relationship with Ireland. In partnership with the John and Pat Hume Foundation, the UK programme included two events, one in February on *Building Common Ground, Reconciling Relations: Belfast, Dublin, London*, and in December the fourth edition of the ‘European Spirit of Peace’ Lecture was given by **Simon Coveney**, former TD and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade. In addition to this, **Professor Katy Hayward**, Professor of Political Sociology at Queen’s University Belfast gave a keynote address on *How Northern Ireland can be a Good News Story for the Three New Governments*.



Professor Katy Hayward, Professor of Political Sociology at Queen’s University Belfast

Topics such as migration in the UK were also tackled, with **Catherine Barnard**, Professor of EU Law and Employment Law, and Senior Tutor and Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, discussing her research on EU Migrant Workers. The IIEA also published a paper by paper by **Cecilia Eve**, Director and President of Young European Movement UK, which explored the crisis of hidden homelessness in the UK and highlighting systemic failures and the urgent need for reform.

The UK Programme concluded with **Mark Paul**, London Correspondent for the Irish Times, discussing how Labour might fend off the Conservatives under Kemi Badenoch and the growing electoral threat from Nigel Farage’s Reform UK.



Mark Paul, London Correspondent for the Irish Times

Throughout 2024, the UK programme also published ten UK Update Briefings by Tony Brown, IIEA Senior Fellow, as part of the communications programme covering the work of the IIEA’s UK Project Group. These UK Update Briefings provided up-to-date information on UK-EU, and UK-Ireland relations, bringing together relevant statements and policy positions from key players in Ireland, the UK and the EU. They were published on the IIEA website.

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Chairs: Various

Researchers: Daire Lawler, Ciaran O'Donohoe

The IIEA's wide-ranging Economics & Finance Programme provides a platform for members to engage in debate on economic issues of the day such as developments in international taxation and trade, the future of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), the changing regulatory landscape of the financial services sector and the growth of green and sustainable finance.

The 2024 programme commenced in March with **Nigel Inkster CMG**, former Director of Operations and Intelligence at MI6 and Senior Advisor for Cyber Security and China at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), speaking on *Re-Risking Geopolitics*. Mr Inkster discussed the rise of a more assertive China, intensifying cyber security threats, and the wider geopolitical climate.

The President of the European Investment Bank, **Nadia Calviño**, gave a keynote address to IIEA members on *Investing in a Sustainable Future for all*, highlighting how the European Investment Bank and Ireland have been working together to reach this shared goal. She also outlined her vision for how Ireland and the European Investment Bank can develop closer cooperation in the coming decade.

Later in May, **John H. Cochrane** of the Rose-Marie and Jack Anderson Institution at Stanford University, spoke about *The Fiscal Theory of the Price Level and Asset Pricing* and how it might explain the surge in inflation. The IIEA was delighted to welcome **Philip Lane**, Chief Economist of the European Central Bank, to discuss *Inflation in the Eurozone*, at a time when hopes were rising of a return to price stability. At the end of May, **Professor John Fitzgerald**, Honorary Fellow and Adjunct Professor of Economics in Trinity College, Dublin, and **Professor Edgar Morgenroth**, Professor of Economics in Dublin City University, gave a



Philip Lane, Chief Economist of the European Central Bank

presentation on their recent publication *Northern Ireland Subvention: Possible Unification Effects*, which generated significant interest and discussion.

European Central Bank monetary policy and banking supervision priorities were the topics of an insightful panel discussion with **Frank Elderson**, Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank, and **Sharon Donnery**, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland, entitled *Responding to the Challenge*. The IIEA then welcomed **Garance Pineau**, Director-General of the Mouvement des Entreprises de France (MEDEF), to discuss *The French Vision for the European Business Agenda*. She reflected on European competitiveness, the green transition, trade policy, and a French vision of the future of the European business environment.



Garance Pineau, Director-General of the Mouvement des Entreprises de France (MEDEF)

DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE IRELAND SERIES

Chair: Dan O'Brien

Researcher: Cian Fitzgerald

In collaboration with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Enterprise Ireland, the IIEA hosted a two-part event series. The first event, held in September, focused on *Horizon Scanning for Enterprise Growth*. On the day, expert speakers examined how horizon scanning tools can assist and support policymakers, citizens, and organisations in making sense of and addressing uncertainty and identifying potential.

The second event, *What's on Europe's Horizon: Technologies, Trends, and Policies Shaping Ireland's Long-Term Future*, saw panellists reflect on how Europe could thrive in a changing world and ensure that it is best positioned to meet the challenges and identify opportunities which may arise.

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

ECONOMIC REGULATORS NETWORK

Chair: Dan O'Brien

Researcher: Ciarán O'Donohoe

The Draghi Report on EU competitiveness was published in September 2024. To assess the report's finding, the IIEA organised, in conjunction with the Economic Regulators Network (ERN), the panel event *Rising to the Competitiveness Challenge: A New Era for EU Competition Policy*. The panel, which included **Olivier Guersent**, the Director-General of the Directorate General for Competition of the European Commission, explored how concepts in the Draghi report could be incorporated into any future European Commission guidelines, and how the report would influence the new European Commission's approach to competition enforcement. The panel also reflected on whether Europe's competition policy harms its competitiveness or whether it offers an avenue through which to boost Europe's competitiveness.



Rising to the Competitiveness Challenge: A New Era for EU Competition Policy, expert panel discussion

ECONOMISTS GROUP

Chairs: John Fitzgerald and Loretta O'Sullivan

Researcher: Various

The IIEA's Economists Group is a monthly private forum attended by practicing economists from the public and private sector. It meets to discuss important issues in European and international economics with expert speakers.

At the end of January, the IIEA Economists Group welcomed **Garrett Blaney**, the Commissioner at ComReg, to discuss *Building the Foundations for Ireland's Digital Regulatory Landscape*. Other contributions to the group in the first half of the year were made by **Fergal McNamara**, Senior Policy Director at Davy; **Conall Mac Coille**, Chief Economist in Bank of Ireland; **Barry Dixon**, Head of Decarbonisation Finance at Davy; and **Ronan Lyons**, Associate Professor in Economics at Trinity College Dublin.

In October, the Economists Group Chair, **John Fitzgerald**, Honorary Fellow and Adjunct Professor of Economics in Trinity College Dublin, gave his annual *Post Budget* presentation. That same month, **Wim Suyker**, former Programme Leader in Public Finance at CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis, gave an *Analysis of Election Manifestos in the Netherlands*.

Finally, in November, **Tom Ferris**, Consultant Economist, discussed with the Group the enhancement of Regulatory Impact Assessments.

ECONOMICS AND FINANCE



Left: **Nadia Calvino**, President of the European Investment Bank



Above: **Nigel Inkster** CMG, former Director of Operations and Intelligence at MI6 and Senior Advisor for Cyber Security and China at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)



Left: **Soile Ollila**, Foresight Manager at Business Finland, and **Larry O'Connell**, Director of the National Economic and Social Council

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

DIGITAL POLICY

Chair: Joyce O'Connor

Researcher: Seamus Allen

Throughout 2024, the IIEA's digital policy programme tracked some of the key topical themes in digital policy including regulation and innovation; the social implications of digitalisation; and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The opening event of the year was a keynote address by **Anu Bradford**, Henry L. Moses Professor of Law and International Organizations at Columbia Law School. Entitled *Digital Empires: The Global Battle to Regulate Technology*, Professor Bradford discussed the competition that exists between the EU, US and China to shape digital policy regulations worldwide. In the event *Digital Markets Act: The Opportunities for European Startups*, **Eoghan O' Neill**, Senior Policy Officer in the European Commission, described how one of the most significant of the new EU digital policy regulations, the Digital Markets Act (DMA), could help to drive competition and innovation in the European digital economy, particularly by supporting SMEs. In a similar vein, the event *SME Perspectives on European Digital Policy* with **Sebastiano Toffaletti**, Secretary General of the European DIGITAL SME Alliance, focussed on the prospects for SMEs in Europe's digital economy. Mr Toffaletti outlined the challenges and opportunities facing SMEs in the digital sector and discussed how policymakers could support growth.



Anu Bradford, Henry L. Moses Professor of Law and International Organizations at Columbia Law School

The social implications of digital technologies are just as profoundly important as the economic ones. The IIEA was thus addressed by **Aoife Barry**, journalist and author, in *Digital Society: Life Online in the Shadow of Ireland's Tech Boom*. Ms Barry discussed the social implications of the internet and social media and some of the regulatory

challenges involved. A much-discussed impact of digital technologies relates to that of mental health. In the event, *Digital Technologies and the Mental Health of Adolescents*, **Dr Amy Orben**, Lead of the Digital Mental Health Group at the University of Cambridge, outlined many of the challenges facing researchers trying to study this subject.



Dr Amy Orben, Lead of the Digital Mental Health Group at the University of Cambridge

One of the most prominent topics recently in digital policy has been AI and in an event entitled *Being Human in the Age of AI*, **Susie Alegre**, Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), discussed how to address the social implications of AI through the lens of human rights law. **Kai Zenner**, Digital Policy Adviser to Alex Voss MEP, spoke on the topic of *The AI Act and Europe's Competitiveness*, highlighting the positive and negative features of the Act while assessing the implications for Europe's competitiveness. The IIEA also hosted, with the French Embassy in Ireland, an insightful conversation with the Ambassador for Digital Affairs at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, **Henri Verdier** and **Dr Patricia Scanlon**, Ireland's AI Ambassador. The speakers addressed the topic of *French-Irish Perspectives on the AI Revolution*.

Exploring Digital Policy Brussels Event

Privacy policy and regulation were also in focus for the Digital Policy programme this year, with an event co-hosted by the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) in Brussels. Supported by Apple, two panel discussions were held on the day in the Belgian capital and two papers were published as part of this project.

The first panel discussion addressed the geopolitics of privacy policy. Privacy policy can relate to information about the most personal and individual aspects of citizens' lives and is a key social value that is essential for human dignity, liberty and democracy. Yet, as the panel

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

discussed, privacy policy has also become the centre of several international geopolitical and trade controversies, with potentially major economic and social consequences.

A second panel event then explored how regulation-making could be improved. As the better regulation agenda gains renewed focus in Brussels, this panel discussed the lessons that can be drawn from digital policy and digitalisation to improve regulation-making in the EU.

The panel for this event included: **Barry Colfer**, Director of Research at the IIEA; **Seamus Allen**, Digital Policy Researcher at the IIEA; **Rasmus Egmont Foss**, Analyst at Think Tank Europa; **Dominika Hajdu**, Policy Director, Center for Democracy & Resilience, GLOBSEC; **Stefania Kolarz**, Analyst at the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM); and **J. Scott Marcus**, Associate Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS).

Skills in the Digital Age: Equipping Citizens and Workers for the Future

Working with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS), the IIEA hosted a panel discussion on the current state of play with regard to digital skills in Ireland and Europe. For Ireland and Europe to adapt, grow, and prosper in the digital age it is vital that their populations are equipped with the right skills to navigate the digital transition. The expert panel assessed the challenges and opportunities relating to digital skills for the economy and society and explored the role of policymakers and other stakeholders in promoting the uptake of the skills required to ensure a prosperous and inclusive future.

This event began with a keynote address by **Minister Patrick O'Donovan**, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

The panel for this event included: **Francesca Borgonovi**, Head of the Skills Analysis team in the OECD Centre for Skills; **Barry Lowry**, Chief Information Officer of the Government of Ireland; **Grainne Blake**, Associate Director, KPMG; and **Anna Thomas**, Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Institute for the Future of Work.



Barry Lowry, Chief Information Officer of the Government of Ireland, and Grainne Blake, Associate Director, KPMG



Seamus Allen, IIEA Researcher; Barry Lowry, Chief Information Officer of the Government of Ireland; Joyce O'Connor, Chair of the Digital Working Group; Grainne Blake, Associate Director at KPMG; and Barry Colfer, IIEA Director of Research

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

GEOPOLITICS

Chair: Pdraig Murphy

Researcher: Cian FitzGerald

With almost 1.7 billion people voting, 2024 marked the 'year of elections'. Central to its output, the IIEA's geopolitics programme examined several important elections which were happening around the world in non-EU Member States. Against the backdrop of deteriorating conditions in the Middle East, the programme also focused on the war in Gaza and its consequences for the region. Finally, it addressed several developing issues, ranging from the rise of authoritarianism to the geopolitics of air transit.

2024: the 'year of elections'

In January, the IIEA hosted a discussion with **Larry Donnelly**, Lecturer in Law at the University of Galway, on the potential outcomes of the 2024 US presidential election, and what the key issues might be. Later, in March 2024, the IIEA hosted a panel discussion with **Dr Zsuzsa Anna Ferenczy**, Affiliated Scholar at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and **Nick Marro**, Lead Analyst for Global Trade at the Economist Intelligence Unit, on the Taiwanese presidential elections, in which they discussed implications of this election for the future of that country's relationship with China, the United States and for the wider region.



Larry Donnelly, Lecturer in Law at the University of Galway

Conflict in the Middle East

The implications of the outbreak of the war in Gaza, and its impact on the geopolitics of the greater Middle East were a strong focus for the geopolitics programme. In May 2024, the IIEA hosted a panel discussion with leading international thinkers on the potential implications for the people who live in Israel and the Palestinian territories, as well as for the region as a whole. In October, **Jaber Baker**, a Syrian activist, gave an online address, drawing attention to the conditions of political prisoners and Syria and to the structure of the intelligence networks of Syria

under Bashar Al-Assad. Finally, a discussion with **Hannah McCarthy**, journalist and filmmaker, examined the war in Gaza, its expansion into Lebanon and the potential implications of a second Trump presidency for the conflict.

Responding to Developing Issues

In April, the IIEA hosted **Vanessa Williamson**, Senior Fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution, who discussed *Democracy in the United States in the Year of Elections*, in which context she examined the resilience of US political institutions. In October, **Willie Walsh**, the Director-General of the International Air Transport Association, delivered a wide ranging address to the IIEA, covering topics ranging from passenger caps to the geopolitics of air transportation.



Vanessa Williamson, Senior Fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution

EU-AFRICA

Chair: Various

Researcher: Emma Richardson

The EU-Africa programme aims to explore themes such as sustainable development, economic cooperation, governance, migration, climate change, and health partnerships between the EU and Africa. The programme also gives the opportunity for the IIEA to highlight the state of play in African countries.

To start the EU-Africa programme in 2024, the IIEA was delighted to have **Mary Fitzgerald**, Non-Resident Scholar at the Middle East Institute, for a private discussion entitled *Between Ambition and Reality: Russia's New Relationship with Africa*. In October, the Institute IIEA hosted a webinar event with **Ambassador Javier Niño Pérez**, Head of Delegation for the EU Delegation to the African Union, to discuss the evolving partnership between the European Union and the African Union. Ambassador Pérez highlighted the partnership's commitment to multilateralism to reduce global inequalities, strengthen solidarity, promote international cooperation, and fight and mitigate climate change.

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES



Mary Fitzgerald, Non-Resident Scholar at the Middle East Institute and Barry Colfer, IIEA Director of Research

The programme also included a keynote address in December from **Holy Ranaivozanany**, Deputy Executive Director of the Africa-Europe Foundation, overseeing strategy, partnerships and outreach across Africa, Europe, and multilateral platforms. In her online address to the IIEA, Ms Ranaivozanany explored how to unlock opportunities for mutual benefit in both the EU and Africa, where bold, innovative thinking is needed, from finance to health, green industrialisation, and digital cooperation.

SECURITY AND DEFENCE

Chair: Marie Cross

Researcher: Cian FitzGerald

In 2024, the IIEA's Security and Defence programme explored the changing landscape of the international security environment, including the changing European security environment and the EU's and NATO's response to Russia's continued war of aggression against Ukraine; the position of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in 2025; and the changing character of modern conflict.

Changing Global Security Environment

In February 2024, the IIEA hosted **Admiral Rob Bauer**, the Chair of the NATO Military Committee, who outlined NATO's response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. In July, the IIEA welcomed **Dr Radu Magdin**, CEO of Smartlink Communications, to discuss the importance of the 'Romania-Moldova-Ukraine' triangle for Europe's security and for enlargement. Later that month, **Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Alexander Vindman**, former director for European Affairs at the US National Security Council, discussed with members his perspectives on the war in Ukraine and his outlook for how the war might progress through to the end of 2025. Finally, in September 2024, the IIEA hosted an online event with **Jiří Šedivý**, Chief Executive Officer of the European Defence Agency,

outlining how Europe might expect to build its defence capabilities in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



Admiral Rob Bauer, the Chair of the NATO Military Committee and Maureen O'Brien, Former Deputy Military Advisor to the United Nations Office of Military Affairs, Department of Peace Operations

The Women Peace and Security Agenda in 2024

A panel discussion on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in 2024 brought to the IIEA **Major-General (Ret.) Maureen O'Brien**, Former Deputy Military Advisor to the United Nations Office of Military Affairs, Department of Peace Operations; **Dr Sally-Anne Corcoran**, an Irish Research Council Scholar and Expert in Law, Advocacy, and Engagement; and **Sophie McGuirk**, Peace and Stability Unit at the Department of Foreign Affairs. At a time of heightened geopolitical tensions, and a deteriorating global security environment, the three expert speakers discussed the state of play of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, reflecting on the need to pay greater attention to the specific challenges that women face in conflict settings.

The Changing Character of Warfare in 2024

The growing role of open-source intelligence and geospatial intelligence in tracking events on the ground in Ukraine was the topic of a webinar with **George Barros**, Russia Team & Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) Team Lead on the Russia and Ukraine portfolio at the Institute for the Study of War (ISW). **F. Gregory Gause III**, Professor and John H. Lindsey '44 Chair at Texas A&M's Bush School of Government and Public Service, spoke to IIEA members about the war in Gaza and its potential for provoking broader crises for the greater Middle East. Finally, in November 2024, **Eskil Grandahl Sivertsen**, a special advisor on cyber-social propaganda and influence at the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI), addressed the IIEA on the topic of Influence Operations and the Rise of Artificial Intelligence.

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

CLIMATE PROGRAMME

Chairs: Fergal McNamara and Owen Lewis

Researcher: Various

The IIEA Climate programme explores the ongoing challenges and opportunities in climate action, sustainable energy transition, and environmental protection. The discussion and debate generated helps unpack and understand Ireland's role within the broader European and global frameworks for climate action.

The 2024 programme began with an address by **George Monbiot**, author and environmental activist, on how to feed the world sustainably within planetary boundaries. He explored innovative solutions and drew from his book "RegenesiS" to discuss advances in soil ecology and food production approaches.

Later in the year, solutions for sustainable aviation were the focus for a panel discussion, *Sustainable Aviation: Prospects for a Greener Future*, with **Steven Fitzgerald**, Head of Sustainability and Finance at Ryanair; **Steven Gillard**, Regional Director for Middle East and Europe Sustainability at Boeing; and **Dr Marina Efthymiou**, Professor of Aviation Management at DCU Business School, who explored eco-friendly technology and operational strategies for reducing emissions.

Bringing a European policy perspective, **Matthew Baldwin**, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate-General for Energy, and **Jacob Werksman**, Principal Adviser for International Aspects of EU Climate Policy at the Directorate-General for Climate Action, explained EU climate and energy policy, discussing NECPs, 2040 emissions targets, and the European Climate Risk Assessment.

Dr Tessa Hill, Professor at the Earth & Planetary Sciences Department at UC Davis was the final speaker on the Climate programme, delivering an online address in October 2024 entitled *At Every Depth: Exploring Climate Change and Human Impact on our Oceans*. Drawing on her recent book, she highlighted in discussion with IIEA Director-General, **Alex White**, climate change and human impact on oceans and the efforts necessary to protect the marine environment.

ENERGY

The decarbonisation of Ireland's energy sector was the main focus for the 2024 programme, examining opportunities from both traditional and renewable energy sources.

Chair: Various

Researchers: Dr Matthew G. O'Neill and Ciarán O'Donohoe

A panel discussion in February 2024, organised with Gas Networks Ireland, explored strategies for decarbonising Ireland's gas network, featuring **David Kelly**, Director of Customer and Business Development at Gas Networks Ireland; **JJ Lenehan**, Building Officer with Teagasc; **Teresa O'Flynn** of Ara Partners; **Christian Bendrup Faurholt**, Project Manager at Energinet and **Caoimhe Giblin**, Managing Director, Commercial at ElectroRoute.



Panel discussion Decarbonising Ireland's Gas Network

In December 2024, **Noel Cunniffe**, CEO of Wind Energy Ireland, outlined Ireland's wind energy sector development and future potential, discussing both onshore and offshore wind opportunities.



Noel Cunniffe, CEO of Wind Energy Ireland

ACCELERATE 2024: THE TRANSITION TO A NET ZERO FUTURE



As part of the IIEA's energy and climate programme, the IIEA partnered with ESB in April 2024 to host *ACCELERATE 2024: The Transition to a Net Zero Future*. Over 350 people registered to attend this major international conference, which was held at Dublin Royal Convention Centre. The conference explored Ireland's progress towards a clean energy future, looking at developments and innovations that could be key to accelerating the transition to net zero while addressing the challenges facing Ireland, Europe and beyond.

On the day, global and Irish policymakers, thought leaders, industry representatives and academics shared their vision for a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable net zero future.

Following a welcome to attendees by IIEA Director General, **Alex White SC**, **Michael Liebreich**, Co-Managing Partner EcoPragma Capital and CEO, Liebreich Associates, opened the conference with a keynote address and Q&A on the challenges of the path to net zero. A panel discussion on the *Regulatory Challenges in Delivering NetZero by 2025* included **Jim Gannon**, Chairperson and Commissioner at CRU; **Laura Brien**, Chief Executive at MARA; and John French, Chief Executive of the Utility Regulator, Northern Ireland. **Olivia Lazard**, Research Fellow at Carnegie Europe provided the second keynote of the conference with her insightful analysis of the geopolitics of energy.

A fireside chat brought together **Minister Eamon Ryan** and ESB Deputy Chief Executive **Marguerite Sayers**, in the company of Michael Liebreich, to explore Ireland's energy transition strategy. The topic of *Policy and Technology – Solving for NetZero by 2050* was tackled by a second panel with **Barbara Finamore**, Senior Visiting Research Fellow, The Oxford Institute for Energy Studies; **Serge Colle**, Global Energy & Resources Industry Market Leader and Global Power & Utilities Sector Leader at EY; **Avery Johnstone**, Associate, Global Decarbonization Hub & Global Chair, Leaders 2050 at KPMG; and **Jim Dollard**, Executive Director, Generation & Trading at ESB. The conference concluded with insights from ESB Group CEO **Paddy Hayes** on leading Ireland's clean energy future.

Expertly moderated by **Dearbhail McDonald**, the day was also sprinkled with some lighter moments including a poetry reading by **Chandrika Narayanan-Mohan** and a surprise interview by **Peter O'Shea**, Head of Corporate & Regulatory Affairs at ESB, with participants in the 1979 Young Scientists Exhibition from Blackpool Secondary School in Cork, who had predicted the possibilities for wind power and hydrogen.

The full proceedings of the *ACCELERATE 2024: The Transition to a Net Zero Future* conference were recorded and made available through the IIEA's media channels, providing a comprehensive resource on accelerating Ireland's transition to net zero. To date, there are over 800 views in total on YouTube.





RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Chair: Nora Owen

Researcher: Dylan Casey Marshall

As the global geopolitical order is changing, with democracy coming under threat and armed conflicts proliferating, the IIEA's longstanding Justice and Home Affairs programme touched on several areas of importance in 2024. These included the rule of law, fundamental human rights, and law in times of armed conflict. Leaders, academics, and commentators across these policy areas generated important discussion and debate at the IIEA throughout the year.

History of EU Law

The first event on the programme saw **Dr Tommaso Pavone**, Assistant Professor at University of Toronto, give a keynote address entitled *The Ghostwriters: Lawyers and the Politics behind the Judicial Construction of Europe*. Dr Pavone discussed the mobilisation of law to enact institutional change, and how European integration unfolded as a struggle between national judges who resisted European law and so-called 'eurolawyers' who pushed them to embrace change.



Dr Tommaso Pavone, Assistant Professor at University of Toronto

Human Rights and Democracy

Exploring the theme of fundamental human rights, the IIEA welcomed **Siofra O'Leary**, President of the European Court of Human Rights, to give an address entitled *The Challenged, Challenging but Very Necessary ECHR*. Ms O'Leary discussed the European Convention on Human Rights and its innovative mechanism for the collective enforcement of individual rights as well as the difficulties faced by the ECHR, including its ability to uphold democracy operating within the rule of law, and protect human rights across 46 diverse jurisdictions.

How Foreign Lobbyists Threaten Democracy at Home and Abroad was discussed in an online address by **Casey Michel**, Director of the Combating Kleptocracy Program at the Human Rights Foundation. He outlined the rapid growth of the foreign lobbying industry and the potential wider threats and corruptions this industry poses to democracy.

Law in Times of Armed Conflict

Prof Derek Fincham, Professor at the South Texas College of Law Houston, and **Dr Lori Khatchadourian**, Associate Professor at Cornell University, spoke to the IIEA on *Crimes Against Armenian Cultural Heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh*. In this panel, the two experts discussed abuses of cultural heritage in general and, specifically, the alleged destruction of Armenian cultural heritage following the assertion of Azerbaijani control over Nagorno-Karabakh as well as the longer-term in Nakhchivan.

In April 2024 **Dr Alonso Gurmendi Dunkelberg**, Lecturer at King's College London, gave an address entitled *A Tale of Two Statehoods: Histories of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict through the Lens of Coloniality*. He proposed a new reading of the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in full awareness of coloniality in order to offer new understandings that challenge the hegemonic consensus

Finally, in October 2024 **Dr Giulia Pinzauti**, Assistant Professor at Leiden University, and **Dr John Reynolds**, Associate Professor at Maynooth University gave an address entitled *Israel/Palestine, the International Court of Justice and Ireland*. This panel explored the International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion on the legal consequences of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory, as well as the alleged breaches of the Genocide Convention by Israel, in the context of its war on Gaza in a separate case brought by South Africa. Furthermore, the panel discussed Ireland's role in these processes and what impact these legal processes may have on Ireland and for delivering justice in the Middle East.



Dr Giulia Pinzauti, Assistant Professor at Leiden University

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

DEVELOPMENT MATTERS SERIES

Chair: David Donoghue

Researchers: Keelin O'Sullivan, Dylan Casey Marshall

The *Development Matters* lecture series is a high-level speaker programme supported by Irish Aid in the Department of Foreign Affairs. The purpose of the series is for leading international figures to share their insights on critical development matters of our time, bring current development issues to the attention of a wider audience, and increase awareness and understanding of development cooperation and the role of Irish Aid in building a more sustainable world.

The 2024 Development Matters series commemorated the 50th anniversary of Irish Aid, which established a development policy for Ireland in 1974 – a prerequisite for accession to the European Union. The programme featured 10 distinguished speakers, on a rich and varied menu of topics, including Ireland's development programme; the European Union in international development cooperation; governance; financing development; nutrition and food security; migration; and global health.

Ireland's Development Programme

As is customary every year, the IIEA invited the Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora to present Ireland's annual development priorities. **Minister Seán Fleming** addressed the audience with a speech entitled *Irish Aid 50 – The 50th Anniversary of Ireland's International Development Programme: Priorities and Challenges Ahead*, in which he discussed the legacy and significant achievements of Irish Aid. Minister Fleming also outlined Ireland's priorities and responses to the world's challenges and overlapping crises, focusing on gender equality, reducing humanitarian need, climate action, and strengthening governance.



Seán Fleming, Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora

The European Union in International Development Cooperation

The IIEA hosted two EU Special Representatives and an EU Commissioner in 2024. **Annette Weber**, EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa, examined the *Rising Tensions in the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa*, particularly the simmering political dynamics on both the Western and Eastern shores of the Red Sea, the dangers of regional conflagration, and its impact on maritime security. In turn, **Emanuela Del Re**, EU Special Representative for the Sahel, delivered a speech on the *EU-Africa Partnership and the Case of the Sahel*, which explored the challenges and opportunities for fostering sustainable peace and development in the region. Finally, **Jutta Urpilainen**, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships, presented *The Global Gateway Strategy: EU's Values-Based Strategy for Enhanced International Partnerships and Sustainable Investments*.



Emanuela Del Re, EU Special Representative for the Sahel



Jutta Urpilainen, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Governance

The IIEA was honoured to host **Ibrahim Hamis Juma**, Chief Justice of the Republic of Tanzania, who reflected on the role of rule of law in stabilising fragile states in a speech entitled *Facilitating Access to Justice in an Expansive Developing Country: Challenges and Prospects*.

Financing Development

Vera Songwe, Founder of the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility, addressed the issue of *The Green Transition and the Investment Opportunity for Africa*, highlighting the importance of green transition for a better trajectory for African development.

Nutrition and Food Security

David Nabarro, Founder and Strategic Director of the 4SD Foundation, reflected on local and national priorities regarding food systems transformation and on interconnected challenges, such as climate action and sustainable development, in a speech entitled *Advancing Food Systems Transformation: A Personal View*. Additionally, **Lawrence Haddad**, Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), discussed *Promoting Nutrition in a Time of Scarcity*, highlighting the clear connection between malnutrition and humanitarian and climate crises.



Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) with Monica Gorman, Associate Professor of Agricultural Extension at UCD

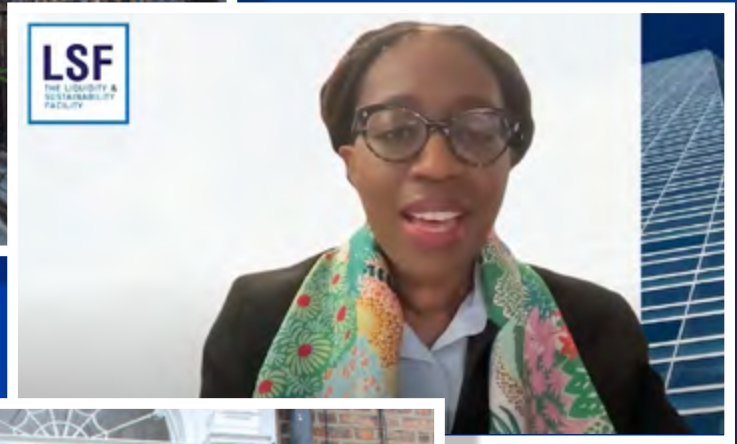
Migration

In her address on *Changing the Narrative on Migration*, **Amy Pope**, Director General of the International Organization on Migration, reflected on the importance of shifting the global narrative on migration from one that is highly politicised to one that captures the potential and benefits of this global phenomenon.

Global Health

In the final address of the 2024 Development Matters lecture series, **Dr Mike Ryan**, Executive Director of the World Health Organization's Health Emergencies Programme, discussed *Managing the World's Most Prevalent Health Emergencies*. He provided insight into the currently ongoing disease outbreaks, environmental disasters, and other humanitarian crises, and highlighted the importance of vaccinations in disease prevention.

DEVELOPMENT MATTERS



Top: Emanuela Del Re, EU Special Representative for the Sahel with Michael Gaffey, Jill Donoghue and David Donoghue

Above right: Vera Songwe, Founder of the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility

Above left: Jutta Urpilainen, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships with Jill Donoghue, David Donoghue, Barbara Nolan and Michael Gaffey

Left: Amy Pope, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)



RESEARCH PROGRAMMES



IIEA INSIGHTS

Chair: Dan O'Brien

The 2024 Insights podcast series, an IIEA members-only event hosted by IIEA Chief Economist Dan O'Brien, featured conversations with global experts who discussed pressing political and economic issues, from defence to European competitiveness. As a bi-weekly fixture, IIEA Insights provided its audiences with access to timely and expert analysis from leading academic and policy thinkers. Edited podcasts of the events were made publicly available on Spotify, YouTube and other streaming services.

In focus for the 2024 IIEA Insights series were emerging trends in geopolitics. **Robert Kaplan**, author and chair of geopolitics at the Foreign Policy Research Centre, discussed the shift towards 'great power competition' and how this paradigm is clearly exhibited in the greater Middle East region.

Russia's threat to Europe remained a pressing topic over 2024, and a discussion on European security in Russia and Ukraine's neighbourhood, featured perspectives from **Eoin McNamara**, an Irishman in Helsinki, **Robert Pszczel**, a Polish security expert in Warsaw, and **Olena Tregub**, a Ukrainian living in Ireland. How prepared Europe is in terms of its defence capacity in the face of Russia's war on Ukraine and the election of Donald Trump was the subject for a four-person panel made up of **Brigid Laffan**, Emeritus Professor at the European University Institute; **Carsten Søndergaard**, Denmark's Ambassador to Russia (2018 to 2022); **Marcin Terlikowski**, Deputy Head of Research at the Polish Institute of International affairs; and **Ben Tonra**, Professor of International Relations at UCD.

The European economy in the wake of the Draghi Report was the subject of several IIEA Insights podcasts, including how best to manage what was described as Europe's 'flailing economy' with **Lucinda Creighton**, CEO of Vulcan Consulting Ltd; and **Conall Mac Coille**, Group Chief Economist at Bank of Ireland, as guests. **Elvire Fabry** of the Jacques Delors Institute, **Martin Sandbu**, European

Economics Commentator at the Financial Times, and **Sander Tordoir**, Chief Economist at the Centre for European Reform, discussed the EU's imposition of tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles and whether this underscores a fundamental shift in EU policies against free trade.

Implications for the global economy brought about by the change in demographics and an aging population were examined in a conversation with **Claus Vistesén**, Chief Eurozone Economist for Pantheon Macroeconomics, while the perennial issue of housing policy was brought under the spotlight in a podcast episode with **Paul Cotter**, Principal Officer in the Department of Finance and **Michelle Norris**, Professor of Social Policy at UCD.

2024 dubbed as the 'Year of Elections', presented an opportunity for analysts to reflect on relations within Europe. **Sir Ivan Rogers**, former UK Permanent Representative to the EU, spoke in person to IIEA members, reflecting on how British relations with its neighbours, including Ireland, might change after the 2024 UK General Elections. **Daithí Ó Ceallaigh**, former Irish diplomat and former Director General of the IIEA, and **John Peet**, the political and Brexit editor for The Economist, assessed Britain's bilateral relations with European countries and prospects for closer cooperation with its neighbours. The French political landscape in the run-up to its 2024 elections and the likely sea change in France's parliamentary composition was examined in a conversation with **Hélène Conway-Mouret**, a member of France's senate and **Nicolas Véron**, cofounder of Bruegel think tank.

Ireland's place in Europe was assessed by **Dr Eoin Drea**, Senior Researcher at the Wilfried Martens Centre in Brussels; **Senator Michael McDowell**, member of Seanad Éireann since 2016 and former Tánaiste and Minister of Justice; and **Dr Kathryn Simpson**, Associate Professor of Politics & Economics of the EU and Director of Research at Keele University, who shared their views on how Ireland is positioning itself within the EU and how it should position itself having regard to the shift in thinking on EU State aid, competition, immigration and security. And, in the aftermath of the Irish general election, IIEA Insights brought together seven diplomats, scholars and analysts to share their views on what the next Irish government's foreign policy priorities should be.

Finally, the seismic effects that the US continues to have on the world's economic, defence and policy priorities was brought sharply into focus by conversations with a range of speakers, including **Larry Donnelly**, Law Lecturer at the University of Galway, who joined IIEA

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Insights to comment on the impending US presidential election and how political power is diffused in the US, amongst the congress, the executive and the supreme court. **Noah Smith**, an American blogger and journalist with 300,000+ audience on X, joined the podcast in June for a wide-ranging discussion on US industrial policy to Japan's monetary policy to the future of the US dollar as the world's reserve currency, while the implications for transatlantic trade and security relations that Trump's proposed tariffs posed were examined by **Alicia García Herrero**, Chief Asia Pacific Economist at Natixis bank and a Senior fellow at Bruegel think tank; **Rory Montgomery**, former Permanent Representative of Ireland to the EU; and **Matt Moran**, former director of BioPharmaChem Ireland.

PATHWAYS: IRELAND'S AGRICULTURAL FUTURE

Chair: Professor Alan Matthews

Researcher: Dr. Matthew G. O'Neill

The Pathways: Ireland's Agricultural Future project was launched in August 2024 and examines the critical challenges and new opportunities facing Ireland's agri-food sector. This initiative, supported by the European Climate Foundation, aims to address the unique challenges facing Ireland as a major agricultural producer working to meet ambitious climate targets. It also means to serve as a source of independent and unbiased research, informed by discussion among diverse partners, which in turn will feed into the national and European debate.

In December, **Professor Alan Matthews**, Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy at Trinity College Dublin and Consultant for the Pathways Project, and **Dr Matthew O'Neill**, IIEA Climate Project Lead, presented initial findings from their working paper, *From Policy to Pasture: Bridging the Gap Between Climate Targets and Irish Agricultural Realities*. The paper explored the balance between Ireland's €17.3 billion agri-food sector and its 37.8% contribution to national greenhouse gas emissions. This project will continue in 2025 with further discussion, papers and events.

DISABILITY POLICY

Chairs: Dr Vivian Rath, Dr Barry Colfer

Researchers: Tara Kukec, Seamus Allen

The IIEA's Disability Policy programme for 2024 explored some key themes, including inclusivity and the role of technology.

In an important year for elections, **Alejandro Moledo**, Deputy Director of the European Disability Forum, gave an overview of the European Disability Forum's report, *Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities*, which outlined the legal and practical barriers that persons with disabilities face when exercising their electoral rights in the EU elections across the 27 EU Member States. As part of the discussion, how inclusivity could be improved was also discussed. Inclusivity was also the key theme of the event, *Driving Inclusion: Enhancing Disability Services and Policies Across Europe*, in which the IIEA was addressed by **Kirsi Konola**, President of the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD). Ms Konola provided a comprehensive overview of the EU framework for disability policy and looked at examples to support disability services across the EU. In the event *Digital Assistive Technology as a Key Enabler to Assisted Living*, the IIEA was addressed by **Dr Cathal Morgan**, from the WHO Regional Office for Europe. Dr Morgan discussed the joint WHO and UNICEF Global Report on Assistive Technology (GRAT). He outlined how this report provides a clear roadmap with recommendations to address global challenges in terms of access to assistive products and to make universal health coverage inclusive for all people.



Kirsi Konola, President of the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

IIEA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

Chairs: Daire Lawler and Cian FitzGerald

The IIEA's Young Professionals Network (YPN) continues to go from strength to strength. In 2024, the network provided a unique opportunity for young professionals interested in international affairs to interact with leading experts and build lifelong connections. Reflecting the broad interests of its audience, the YPN welcomed speakers from Ireland, Europe and further afield to discuss topics across geopolitics, economics, migration and artificial intelligence.

The first YPN of the year took place in January with **Patricia Scanlon**, Ireland's first AI Ambassador. In this wide-ranging conversation, Dr Scanlon discussed the transformative effects of artificial intelligence and considered its implications for our societies and economies.

Later that same month, the YPN hosted **Federica Mogherini**, Rector of the College of Europe Bruges at the residence of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium. Members of the YPN had the opportunity to discuss the geopolitical challenges which the EU faces and how Europe has responded to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Paschal Donohoe TD, Chair of the Eurogroup and then-Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery, and Reform, addressed to the YPN on the economic outlook for the Eurozone in February.



YPN audience and Paschal Donohoe TD, Chair of the Eurogroup and then-Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery, and Reform, with Daire Lawler, Former YPN Chair

In June, the IIEA YPN was joined by **Sally Heyden**, journalist and photographer, to discuss her book *The Fourth Time, We Drowned: Seeking Refuge on the World's Deadliest Migration Route*, and how the EU has responded to the movement of migrants and refugees in the Mediterranean Sea.



Sally Heyden, journalist and photographer, with IIEA Researcher Tara Kukec

Nicholas Kraleov, Executive Director of the Washington International Diplomatic Academy where he discussed US Diplomacy and the 2024 presidential election. He reflected upon what implications the 2024 US presidential elections might have for the future of US diplomacy.

The YPN closed out 2024 with its annual festive event, reflecting on the 'Year of Elections'. **Brigid Laffan**, Professor Emeritus at Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EU, discussed the European Parliament election and the formation of the new European Commission; **Larry Donnelly**, Lecturer at the University of Galway, assessed the outcome of the 2024 US Presidential election; and **Kevin Cunningham**, Lecturer in Politics at TU Dublin and Founder of Ireland Thinks, reflected upon the Irish elections and the formation of a new Irish government.

2024 PUBLICATIONS

The Big Reveal? Europe's New Economic Security Strategy

Dylan Marshall
1 February 2024

The EU Commission as a Global Energy Player

Anna Katharina Merl
1 March 2024

The 2024 Portuguese Elections: A Swing to the Right

Emma Richardson
4 March 2024

Northern Ireland Subvention: Possible Unification Effects

John Fitzgerald and Edgar Morgenroth
4 April 2024

Series Report: The D9+ and the Future of the Single Market

12 April 2024

Easy Guide to the European Parliament Elections

Dylan Marshall
30 April 2024

The Changing Mood Music of EU Enlargement

Tara Kukec
30 April 2024

Collaboration, Security, and Power: The European Defence Industrial Strategy

Amy Graham
16 May 2024

"Eurovision with a Difference" European Political Parties, Lead Candidates and the 2024 European Elections

Dylan Marshall
21 May 2024

The Rise of the Far-Right and European Parliament Elections - A Point of No Return?

Dylan Marshall
27 May 2024

Who is Acting, Who is Reacting?: Does the EU Rapid Deployment Capacity Signal a New Moment in European Defence?

Cian FitzGerald
30 May 2024

Closing the Loop: Advancing the Circular Economy for Packaging

13 June 2024

Scope to enhance the Regulatory Impact Analysis Process in Ireland

Tom Ferris
14 June 2024

Changing the Guard: A Timeline of Changes to the Leadership in EU Institutions in 2024

Dylan Marshall
17 June 2024

Skills in the Digital Age: Adapting Ireland's Workforce for the Digital Transition

20 June 2024

The Outcome of the European Parliament Elections – A Kaleidoscope of Combinations

Dylan Marshall
28 June 2024

A Symbiotic Relationship? Citizens' Juries and National Governments

15 July 2024

Citizens' Juries and Spatial Planning - A Formula for Change?

Edmond Grace
16 July 2024

A Post-Election Guide to the New European Parliament 2024-2029

Dylan Marshall
19 July 2024

An Overview of the Proposed College of Commissioners for the 2024-2029 Mandate

Dylan Marshall
24 September 2024

A Sticky Situation: Fraudulent Honey in the EU

Emma Richardson
7 October 2024

An Ugly Cobweb or A New Broom? An Analysis of the Structure of the New Commission

Dylan Marshall
6 November 2024

Championing Democracy and Rule of Law in the EU - An Analysis of the Portfolio of Commissioner-designate Michael Mc Grath

Heather Burke
6 November 2024

Horizon Scanning for Enterprise Growth

Ciarán O'Donohoe
11 November 2024

2024 PUBLICATIONS

The Geopolitics of Privacy Policy: Lessons and Implications for the EU

Seamus Allen
20 November 2024

Horizon Scanning for Enterprise Growth

Ciarán O'Donohoe
5 December 2024

Improving Regulation-Making: Insights from Digital Policy

Seamus Allen
6 December 2024

Are Democracy and Human Rights in Danger?

Pat Cox
10 December 2024

The UK's Hidden Homeless

Cecilia Eve
11 December 2024

At Every Depth: Exploring Climate Change and Human Impact on Our Oceans

Dr Tessa Hill
11 December 2024

Strengthening the Single Market: An Overview of the Enrico Letta Report

Ciarán O'Donohoe
12 December 2024

COP 29 in Baku: An Assessment

Barry Colfer and Fergal McNamara
13 December 2024

What's Past is Prologue: Ireland's Security and Defence in a New European Context

Mark Mellett
17 December 2024

The Digital Services Act: Censorship Risks for Europe

Seamus Allen
18 December 2024

Policy to Practice: The Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Ireland and the EU

Barry Colfer and Emma Richardson
18 December 2024

Protocol 21 - 15 Years On

Dylan Marshall
18 December 2024

UK Update, Issues 166 – 175

Tony Brown
From 16 January 2024 - 12 September 2024

COMMUNICATIONS REVIEW

Throughout 2024, the IIEA Communications and Creative teams worked in tandem to expand reach, enhance engagement, and solidify the IIEA’s position as a leading research policy institute. The focus was on strengthening existing communications pillars while exploring new opportunities to connect with audiences. The results reflect a year of notable progress, with increases in engagement across digital platforms, growing media recognition, and a deeper resonance with younger demographics.

Email Engagement

Email is the IIEA’s primary communications channel to members with members receiving event invitations, the weekly Digest, and the monthly Newsletter. Member engagement with this channel is very positive, with open rates for the Digest at 31% on average over the year (click-through rate 7%) and 23% for the newsletter (click-through rate 5%), reflecting high member interest in IIEA’s activities.

Digital and Website Performance

Pageviews grew to 295,000 marking the highest number since the website’s relaunch in 2021. The data suggests that improvements to the organisation and navigability of the IIEA website have allowed users to find information more efficiently, with the average user now taking 19 seconds to find the information or section they are looking for, compared with 32 seconds in 2023.

Interest spanned a broad range of topics, with the Energy and Events landing pages proving the most popular after the Homepage. Publications also performed strongly, with the paper, *Northern Ireland Subvention: Possible Unification Effects*, attracting nearly 4,000 visitors. This aligns with widespread media interest in the topic. Meanwhile, publication downloads more than doubled, rising from 2,135 in 2023 to 5,102 in 2024 – an increase of 139%.

Another striking trend was the sharp rise in younger visitors. Traffic from the 18-24 age group nearly doubled, reaching 12,887 users compared to 6,462 in 2023. Similarly, visitors aged 25-34 grew by 64%, suggesting that targeted events and relevant content promoted on the right channels are drawing in students and young professionals. Geographically, most visitors to the website came from Ireland first, followed by the United States, Singapore, China, Germany, and France.

Social Media Expansion

Social Media	Followers/subscribers 2024	Followers/subscribers 2023	Followers/subscribers 2022	Followers/subscribers 2021
LinkedIn	15.5k	14k	12k	10k
Twitter/X	17.2k	17.2k	16.7k	15.5k
Instagram	1.4k	1.2k	1k	.8k
YouTube	17.2k	16.3k	15.3k	5.5k

Across social media, the IIEA experienced steady growth and engagement, with the Communications and Creative team focused on consistent activity and branding, creating engaging content such as video and animated assets and leveraging our network of staff, speakers and contributors to drive promotion.

On Twitter/X, the IIEA now has 17,220 followers, gaining 991 new follows over the year. Posts reached a total of 579,250 impressions, with engagement peaking in April (coinciding with the John Fitzgerald and Edgar Morgenroth paper on the NI Subvention) and July (linked to a speaking event with Dr Alexander Vindman). There were 6,200 views video throughout 2024 and 937 reposts of IIEA content.

LinkedIn also grew as a platform in 2024, reaching 15,941 followers, with content generating 3,550,000 impressions, in a mix of organic and paid reach. Engagement was particularly strong on this channel around discussions on the *Reintegration of Ukrainian Children*.

The focus for the IIEA’s Instagram account, which has a younger demographic, was graphic and video content and was largely used to support other social media platforms. In 2024, followers grew to 1,400 and strong engagement was notable particularly in the video reels created in-house. This likely contributed to the rise in visitors to the website within the 18-34 age group.

On YouTube, the IIEA welcomed 846 new subscribers, bringing the total to 17,200, while video recordings of the IIEA events amassed 144,166 views. Other audio platforms also saw steady listener growth, including Spotify (3,711 listens), Apple Podcasts (5,216 listens), and SoundCloud (25,820 listens), reflecting an appetite for in-depth policy discussions in accessible formats.

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Pageviews	295k	225k	250k	263k	347.3k	370.1k	259.6k	249.3k
Avg time on site	19 sec	32 sec	45 sec	50 sec	84 sec	102 sec	99 sec	70 sec

COMMUNICATIONS REVIEW

Media Coverage and Influence

A major objective for 2024 was to elevate the IIEA's profile as a trusted source of expert analysis and insight. Throughout the year, 69 press releases were issued to targeted media, with an average open rate of 27% and a link click rate by journalists of 9%, both of which are above industry average.

The impact of IIEA's work was evident in the breadth of media coverage. Research and analysis from the IIEA featured in regional, national, and international outlets, spanning print, broadcast, and digital platforms.

Among the most widely discussed publications was the previously mentioned paper by Professors John Fitzgerald and Edgar Morgenroth, which was published by the IIEA, *Northern Ireland Subvention: Possible Unification Effects*. This gained significant traction in April and May across most regional and national media in Ireland as well as international media such as Bloomberg, Daily Express and BBC Northern Ireland. The paper continued to be referenced sporadically by media through the remainder of the year. *A Sticky Situation: Fraudulent Honey in the EU* written by IIEA Researcher Emma Richardson, garnered strong attention with articles in the Irish Times, an interview on RTE Radio One's Today with Claire Byrne show as well as regional media.

IIEA expertise was frequently called upon to provide analysis on geopolitical and economic matters. Throughout 2024 Director of Research, Dr Barry Colfer, Chief Economist Dan O'Brien and several researchers contributed their insights on geopolitical and economic matters to The Journal.ie, Irish Times, Irish Independent, Newstalk, RTE, and Virgin Media among others.

High-profile speakers at IIEA events also made headlines. These include Willie Walsh, CEO of IATA, who was quoted widely following his remarks at the event *In Conversation with Willie Walsh*. Chief Economist of the European Central Bank, Philip Lane's discussion on Inflation in the Eurozone featured in the Irish Independent, Irish Times and RTE TV News. The Business Post reported on comments by Nadia Calvino, President of the European Investment Bank, at the event *Investing in a Sustainable Future for All*. Dr Alexander Vindman, a retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel, and former director for European Affairs on the White House's National Security Council's, insights into the Russia-Ukraine War were covered in the Irish Times and RTE Radio One's Today with Claire Byrne.

Creative Output

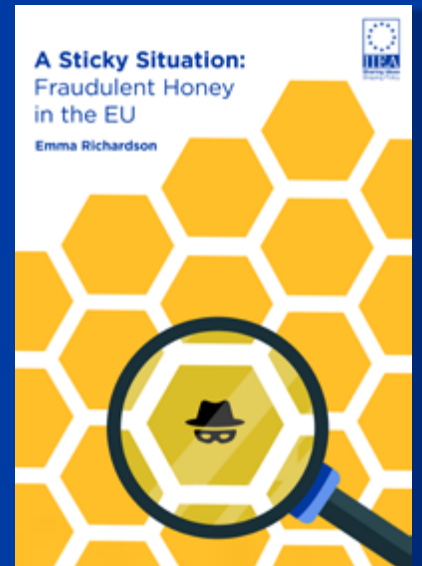
The IIEA's creative team maintained high standards across all content formats in 2023. Professional design and impactful social media graphics contributed to the organisation's consistent quality and helped drive engagement.

Conclusion

The IIEA's communications strategy in 2024 successfully expanded reach, deepened engagement, and strengthened the IIEA's profile as a leading source of analysis and discussion on key policy issues. Increased website traffic, social media engagement, and media coverage reflect the effectiveness of targeted outreach and content-driven strategies. The rise in younger audiences and international visitors demonstrates the growing relevance of IIEA's work to a broader demographic.

With an engaged audience, an expanding digital footprint, and a strong reputation in the media, the IIEA is well-positioned for continued success in the year ahead.

CREATIVE OUTPUT 2024



SOCIAL MEDIA 2024



IIEA @iiea · Jul 30, 2024

Great turn out last night as we welcomed @hollyhaid to discuss her fascinating career and investigations into the impact of EU migration policies, as part of our Young Professionals Network programme. Holly is author or co-authored back 'My Fourth Time We Drowned'. Thanks to all who attended for their contributions and to our Chair, Researcher Tara Kubic.

The IIEA's Young Professionals Network (YPN) is a forum for young professionals and students between the ages of 20 and 35 to engage with thought leaders from politics, business, culture, sport, and the media in an informal after-work setting.

#IIEAevents #YoungProfessionalsNetwork #Migration #yppn #iieaevents

IIEA @iiea · Jul 30, 2024

Speaking to an @iiea audience, @AVinciman says that Russia's "theory of war" faltered early on and they fell back on a war of attrition. Two and a half years later, he asks "what is the West's theory of war?". #IIEAevents

Cian FitzGerald · 1d

Simon Rosenthal (Defence and Security) at the Institute of International and European Affairs

Last Friday, I had the immense honour of delivering a lecture at the IIEA Defence Studies Command and Staff School for the IIEA Strategic Compass.

Together we delved into the concept of **Strategic Autonomy** and considered whether the EU could truly emerge as a defence actor for its citizens. Our discussion touched on critical topics such as the EU's **Autonomous** and the EU Rapid Deployment Capacity, the implications of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine for European security, and the future of the EU's Defence Industrial Strategy.

The insightful questions from such experienced course members made it an enriching exchange and I'm excited to integrate their perspectives into my research.

It was a privilege to share the work which we are doing on security and defence at the Institute of International and European Affairs and was truly one of the highlights of my career so far. Huge thanks to Simon Rosenthal for the kind invitation to speak.

#Defence #EUDefence #Security #Geopolitics #EU #IIEA #IIEAdefencefora



You reposted

Nadia Calvino @NadiaCalvino · May 2, 2024

Thanks for the warm welcome and lively exchange at the Institute of International & European Affairs **IIEA** talks on the strategic role of the **QCB** to put capital to work and contribute to growth, prosperity, technological & social progress in Ireland, Europe and the world.

You reposted

Canada in Ireland @canadaireland · Jan 9, 2024

Canada's Ambassador for Climate Change, Catherine Stewart, will be in Dublin on Monday January 22 at IIEA to speak with her Irish colleague Dr. Sinéad Walsh about the recent #COP29 and the global climate challenge. It is free and open to all!

iiea.com/events/the-natl...

You reposted

Irish Aid @IrishAid · May 29, 2024

Fascinating address today by Hon. Chief Justice of Tanzania, Prof. Ibrahim Juma at IIEA on his country's expansion & reform of access to justice. Ireland is proud to support @RuleOfLawIRE, & its justice and governance programmes in Tanzania. #DevelopmentMatters

IIEA @iiea · Nov 2, 2024

With the announcement in September by Ursula von der Leyen, President of the **EU Commission**, of the proposed College of Commissioners for the 2024-2029 term of office, came a change in the structure of the Commission. Commissioners would report to assigned Executive

How Ugly Colobus or A New Brown? An Analysis of the Structure of the New Commission

by Dylan Cooney Marshall

IIEA @iiea · May 21, 2024

Ahead of the European Elections and as part of the **EU Live & Proving it** project, supported by **ecolab**, a new paper by **IIEA** gives an overview of the upcoming Eurovision Debate, taking place this Thursday, 23 May. This is the final debate between the lead candidates for the

EUROVISION WITH A DIFFERENCE

European Political Parties, Lead Candidates for the 2024 European Elections.



Institute of International and European Affairs

A panel of Ireland's climate, policy and industry experts assess whether #COP29 is achieving its aims and what the future holds for the COP process.

Thanks to Dr **Umar Hassan**, Climate Director (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland) for his insights from Dáil and welcome **Jonny Mac Garry**, Head of Policy at Friends of the Earth Ireland; **Sam Pearson**, Managing Director, Corporate Affairs, Regulation and Strategy at SSE plc; and **Chris Mahon**, Lead Sustainability Strategist at INGO. Chaired by **Alex Finlay** SEI and with **Larry Corbett** and **Bob McDowell** SSE.

#IIEAevents #ClimateAndDevelopment

IN THE NEWS 2024

RTÉ NEWS SPORT ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS LIFESTYLE CULTURE PLAYED TV RADIO

BRAINSTORM - About Brainstorm - Contribute to Brainstorm

How Ukraine war is seeing a new and alarming kind of hybrid warfare

Updated | Notices, 22 Jan 2024 11:56



Firefighters at residential building destroyed by a Russian missile attack in central Kyiv as the city is hit. Photo: Getty Images

By Stephen Treacy
UCC

More from UCC

HOME PAGE / NEWS

Security concerns around offshore windfarms 'overwhelmingly the number one issue'



Physical and cyber security of marine infrastructure – from windfarms to under-sea energy pipelines and data cables – is a major issue across northern Europe on the back of suspected sabotage operations. File photo

WEB, 13 DEC, 2024 - 8:55
CORA MAC DONNEFF, SECURITY CORRESPONDENT

Trump victory 'could prolong Ukraine war'

Conor Gallagher

Former US national security adviser says Democrat win would lead to 'huge pressure' on Putin

Ukraine must make some 'tough choices' in this regard, including lowering its conscription age from 25 to 18. It must also mobilise more of its industry reserves for the war effort and harmonise it with western countries.

Peace negotiations could see the border going back to the pre-2022 status quo and with Ukraine exercising control of parts of the Donbas region seized by Russia, he said. However, the return of Crimea, which is firmly under Russian control, would probably not be on the table. 'In peace negotiations, nobody gets everything they want.'

Donald Trump's re-election would not shorten the war in Ukraine and would probably lead to a longer and bloodier conflict, according to Kenneth Vladimirov, who served as a national security adviser to the former president.

Vladimirov was the leading Ukraine expert on the US National Security Council during the Trump presidency. He came to prominence when leading top US Congressmen prodding that he be the first impeachment of Trump in 2020.

The former US Army lieutenant colonel is visiting Ireland to address the topics of the Russia-Ukraine war, its causes, conduct and geopolitical context.

Vladimirov and Trump's foreign policy would be "radical" and the selection of Ohio senator JD Vance as his running mate underlined this. There was fear in many western governments that Trump would not honour the US's common defence commitments under Article 4 of the NATO treaty or that he would pull out of the defence alliance entirely.

'It might not withdraw outright', Vladimirov said. 'But the power of the president when it comes to foreign policy is great. We might observe

BBC

United Ireland would cost €8bn to €20bn a year, study suggests

4 April 2024

John Campbell
BBC News NI economics and business editor



The report focused on the shortfall between what is raised in taxes in Northern Ireland and the amount spent on public services.

THE IRISH TIMES

Food

Almost half of honey in Irish shops likely sourced from countries not identified on labels, research finds

New findings note that cheaper, adulterated imports pose a threat to 4,000 domestic producers

Export



The report highlights the risks to local beekeepers and suggests that some of the honey samples collected in the study did not appear to be locally sourced.

IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL

LAGE AGRIBUSINESS FARM SCHEMES PROPERTY BUILDINGS PEDIGREE NORTHERN II

New Commission looks set to stick to its guns on green agenda

Voices in cut red tape and allow EU businesses to become more competitive do not look like they will translate to any major loosening of Brussels' green ambition, some experts maintain.



EU flags outside the Brussels building, the headquarters of the European Commission in Brussels.

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen's pledge to up the EU's game on economic competitiveness against market challenges from the US and China will not necessarily mean a backsliding on the green agenda. That was the message to emerge from the expert panel discussion, the incoming Commission, at an Institute of International and Business

Irish Post

NEWS - CULTURE - LIFE & STYLE - ENVIRONMENT - TRAVEL - SPORT - HOME



News in review - the major stories that shaped Ireland in 2024

Short-term financial pain of Irish unity could see us reap rewards in the future

MARTINA DEVLIN



Irish unity could see us reap rewards in the future, despite short-term financial pain, according to a report from the Institute of International and Business

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

Patron: Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

Comité d'Honneur: Enda Kenny, Mary McAleese, Mary Robinson, Pat Cox, Brian Cowen, Bertie Ahern, Máire Geoghegan Quinn, Charles McCreevy, David Byrne, Ray MacSharry,

Honorary Life Members: Adrian Burke, Prof. Patrick Keatinge, Geraldine Byrne Nason, Dr. Con Power, Dr. David Williamson

Vice Presidents: Adrian Burke, Una O'Dwyer, Nora Owen, Katherine Meenan, Jill Donoghue

IIEA Board of Directors 2024:

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Company Secretary: Marie Sinnott

Treasurer: Brendan Butler

Brian Daly

Catherine Day

John Bruton (Deceased Feb 24)

Maeve Carton

Marie Cross (Resigned Nov 24)

Michael Patten (Appointed Mar 24)

Nora Owen

Orlaigh Quinn (Appointed Jan 24)

Pat Cox

Peter McLoone

Sheila Nunan

Terence O'Rourke (Resigned Nov 24)

Terry Neill (Resigned Nov 24)

Senior Fellows: Tony Brown, Pat Cox, Marie Cross, Paul Gallagher, Eamon Gilmore, Katherine Meenan, Pádraig Murphy

IIEA Management Team

Director General: Alex White

Director of Research: Barry Colfer

Senior Research Advisor: Jill Donoghue

Director of Administration: Tom Breen

Director of Finance: Janice Epstein

Communications Director: Adrienne Ferguson

Creative Director: Sarah Burke

Membership Relations Director: Paul O'Neill

Chief Economist: Dan O'Brien

Consultant - Projects and Grants: Andrew Gilmore

IIEA Committees

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

Brendan Butler (Chair)

Feargal O'Rourke

Marie Cross (Resigned Nov 24)

Marie Sinnott

Sheila Nunan

Terence O'Rourke (Resigned Nov 24)

Membership Committee

Brian Daly (Chair)

Feargal O'Rourke

Michael Patten

Nora Owen

Orlaigh Quinn

Terry Neill (Resigned Nov 24)

Remuneration, Employment and Nominations Committee

Peter McLoone (Chair)

Brendan Butler

Feargal O'Rourke

Maeve Carton

Marie Sinnott

Terry Neill (Resigned Nov 24)

Research Strategy Committee

Marie Cross (Chair) (Resigned Nov 24)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2024

SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT			
	Year ended 31-Dec-24	Year ended 31-Dec-23	Year ended 31-Dec-22
	€	€	€
Income			
Subscriptions	946,413	962,251	1,007,490
Grants and Projects	777,833	780,710	653,326
Other	109,915	87,481	135,930
Non-Exchange Transactions	0	0	0
Subsidy	0	0	0
Total	<u>1,834,161</u>	<u>1,830,442</u>	<u>1,796,746</u>
Expenditure			
Salaries & Contractors	1,468,114	1,416,803	1,376,572
Grants and Projects	98,043	80,783	98,804
Administration	314,587	300,838	343,732
Depreciation	28,368	33,914	34,391
Total	<u>1,909,112</u>	<u>1,832,338</u>	<u>1,853,499</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>(74,951)</u>	<u>(1,896)</u>	<u>(56,753)</u>

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
	As at 31-Dec-24	As at 31-Dec-23	As at 31-Dec-22
	€	€	€
Fixed Assets	346,515	363,583	394,652
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)	410,342	468,225	439,052
Net Assets	<u>756,857</u>	<u>831,808</u>	<u>833,704</u>
Revaluation Reserve	160,099	160,099	160,099
Income & Expenditure Account	146,758	71,709	73,605
Operating Reserve	450,000	600,000	600,000
Capital & Reserves	<u>756,857</u>	<u>831,808</u>	<u>833,704</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT SUMMARY



The Institute's accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 were audited by Ernst & Young.

The Institute continues to participate in the Community Employment Scheme operating under the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection albeit on a reduced scale with 2 staff members, managed and supervised by North Wall CDP.

The Institute continues to successfully deliver a strong high-quality schedule of events, research programmes, lecture series and talks in a variety of forms - virtually, hybrid or in-person - tailored to suit our partners, stakeholders and members. Following a further reduction in membership income and the postponement of a number of sponsored events to 2025, by virtue of the EU CERV grant, the DFA programme, a healthy increase in new project work, a successful conference and the unwavering support of our members, we managed to maintain our operational capacity but closed the financial year with a higher deficit.

In accordance with recommended best practice, the Operating Reserve Fund policy was approved and adopted by the Board on 7 November 2018. As agreed, the Board sets the desired level of the Fund annually, at all times cognisant of the resources and funds required for smooth operations and the budgeted operating expenditure for the coming year. This financial year, unlike the previous two years, we did not have the capacity to absorb the higher deficit, and the Board made the decision to reduce the Operating Reserve to assist us in meeting our commitments with the aim of delivering a surplus in the coming year.

Management remains focused on actively targeting new members and improving membership retention in the face of external economic volatility, whilst delivering content that retains the EU CERV grant, the DFA programme commitments and allows us to continue pursuing further profitable revenue generating projects. As always, cognisant of the importance of matching income with expenditure, management continues to carefully monitor the inflationary increased cost of human resources required to successfully meet all revenue generating commitments, the overall operating expenditure related to delivering high quality events and the costs of any remedial work required to the property and rationalise where possible.

Janice Epstein

Director of Finance

21 October 2025

TREASURER REPORT



Principal activities

The principal activity is to provide context, policy insight and analysis of key European and international trends affecting Ireland's strategic direction now and into the future through extensive research and event programmes.

Results for the year

The financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 reflect an income of €1.83m for the year (2023: €1.83m). The strong stable income level reflects the continuing success of the Institute in retaining its relevance to our members and supporters as Ireland's leading international affairs think tank.

Our 2024 income reflects continued support from our members, with subscriptions generating €946k (2023: €962k) in income. We continued to benefit from an increased support of the European Union (EU) Operating Grant (€245k in 2024 compared with €238k in the prior year) as well as the project work commissioned from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) for the Future of Europe project (€250k in 2024 compared to the €233k recorded in 2023). We also benefited from new and recurring project income reflecting the key research strengths of the Institute.

In terms of expenditure, our employment costs at 77% (2023: 77%) of our total outlays is consistent with that of the prior year. The increase in administrative expenses was mainly driven by the €54k increase in agency and consultancy costs to facilitate the research and event offerings of the Institute, as well as an increase of €30k in conference expenses, as a result of hosting the ESB conference during the current year (no equivalent conferences held in 2023). These factors were the

principal reasons for the increase in operating expenses from €1.83m in 2023 to €1.91m in 2024.

Overall, we incurred a deficit of €74,951 in 2024. This is a reflection of the slender margins within which the Institute operates, though we always aim to generate more income than our planned operating costs. However, an unexpected loss of a project or having to incur unbudgeted costs to maintain our operating capacity, can result in such a deficit. In the context of our accumulated opening operating reserves of €600,000, we were able to absorb the 2024 deficit and have the space to plan a continuing vibrant and relevant programme of activities while aiming to again earn income in excess of our operating costs in 2025 and future years.

The Institute's balance sheet at the end of the year remained strong, with net assets of €756k (2023: €832k).

We were very grateful and appreciative of the unwavering support of our members, the Operating Grant awarded by the EU Commission, our principal project partner (DFA) and our many other project partners. Thus, we are confident that the Institute will continue to be able to maintain the provision to our members and the wider public of a sustained high-quality schedule of research, talks and presentations and a wide range of publications.

2024 was a year in which the Institute continued to generate income and provide programmes in the following areas:

- A strong schedule of events for our members and, on many occasions, the wider public, with continued use of the successful and very popular online programme delivery facility. We have again seen strong participation in our event programme in 2024 and the hybrid events which were attended in person as well as being shown on our internet channels increased in popularity.
- The project funding from DFA contributed €250k to our income in 2024 (2023: €233k). The DFA funding is conditional upon agreed work plans and satisfactory bi-annual reports, and the projects are closely monitored by the project committee and through regular contact with the DFA.
- The Institute was awarded an Operating Grant from the EU Commission up to a maximum of €350,000 a year for any one grant. This funding is strictly designated towards our core operational costs only and we recognised €245k in 2024 (2023: €238k) of the grant income, reflecting the increased costs of operating our expanded programme.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis which assumes that the company will continue in operational existence for at least one year

TREASURER REPORT

from the signing of these financial statements. It is the policy of the Institute to operate on a financial break-even basis, taking one year with another, while maintaining sufficient reserves to protect the Institute through periods of adverse economic circumstances.

The directors expect that the Institute will continue to benefit from the support of its members and the various organisations which have commissioned projects with the Institute as well as continuing support from the DFA. Our plans for 2026 envisage that these supports and projects will continue, as well as the possibility of additional project income on the basis of on-going discussions with a number of organisations. This is expected to offset the Operating Grant from the EU Commission which has not been renewed for 2026, as reflected in the forecasts. There is also some risk that the possibility of an economic downturn or other developments might affect some of our income sources, over the next 12 months.

However, taking into account our strong opening position with operating reserves of €450,000 at 1 January 2025, a budgeted reasonable financial operating result for 2025 (now expected to be a modest deficit) and bearing in mind our ability to adapt our programme to continue to match income and expenditures in the event of any further income shortfalls, the directors are therefore satisfied that sufficient income will continue to be available from current and prospective members, projects, grants and activities to ensure that the Institute can continue its operations for the foreseeable future

While continuing to consider how the digitalisation of the provision of our services will impact on how we might best deliver those services to our members and wider stakeholders, the directors do not envisage any substantial changes to the nature of the business.

Brendan Butler
Treasurer

Chair of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

13 October 2025

2024 PLATINUM MEMBERS



2024 FOUNDATION MEMBERS



2024 CORPORATE MEMBERS

AbbVie	Energia Group
American Chamber of Commerce in Ireland	Environmental Protection Agency
An Garda Síochána	EuroFound
Aviareto Limited	Food Safety Authority of Ireland
Avolon Aviation Leasing	Fórsa
Bar Council of Ireland	Home and Community Care Ireland
CCPC	ICHEC
Central Statistics Office	INTO
Centre for Religion, Human Values, and International Relations	ICTU
Chambers Ireland	Irish Funds
Chartered Accountants Ireland	Irish Tax Institute
Citi	Law Society
CODEMA	Maynooth University
Coimisiún na Meán	McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors
Commission for Regulation of Utilities	Merck
ComReg	Microsoft Ireland
Concern	National Economic & Social Council
Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine	Office of the Attorney General
Department of Children Disability and Equality	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
Department of Climate Energy and Environment	Office of the Revenue Commissioners
Department of Culture Communications and Sport	OpenAI
Department of Defence	Oxfam Ireland
Department of Education and Youth	Policing Authority
Department of Enterprise Tourism & Employment	RWE Renewables Ireland Limited
Department of Finance	SEAI
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Sky Ireland
Department of Further and Higher Education Research Innovation and Science	SRI Executive Search
Department of Health	SSE plc
Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage	The Institute of Banking
Department of Justice Home Affairs and Migration	The Oireachtas Commission
Department of Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform	The Wheel
Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht	Trinity College Dublin
Department of Social Protection	Trócaire
Department of the Taoiseach	TU Dublin
Department of Transport	UCD
Dóchas	UNHCR Representation in Ireland
Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)	Vodafone Ireland Ltd
EirGrid plc	William Fry Solicitors

2024 EMBASSY MEMBERS

Embassy of Belgium
Embassy of Brazil
Embassy of the United Kingdom
Embassy of Canada
Embassy of Chile
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
Embassy of the Republic of Croatia
Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus
Embassy of Colombia
Embassy of the Republic of Estonia
Embassy of Finland
Embassy of France
Embassy of Germany
Embassy of Greece
Embassy of Hungary
Embassy of Japan
Embassy of the Republic of Korea
Embassy of the Republic of Latvia
Embassy of Mexico
Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco
Embassy of New Zealand
Embassy of the Republic of Poland
Embassy of Portugal
Embassy of Romania
Embassy of Denmark
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Royal Norwegian Embassy
Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia
Embassy of the Republic of South Africa
Embassy of Spain
Embassy of Sweden
Embassy of Switzerland
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey
Embassy of Ukraine
Embassy of the United Arab Emirates
Embassy of the United States of America

2024 LIFE MEMBERS

Adrian Burke
Alan Matthews
Alan T. Ryan
Andrew Clarke
Andy O'Rourke
Barry Desmond
Beatrice Hughes
Billy Attley
Brendan Butler
Brendan Kearney
Brendan Lynch
Brendan Ryan
Brian Cawley
Brian Cowen
Brian Hurley
C.J. Walsh
Catherine Day
Ciaran Toland
Colin Wrafter
Colm Larkin
Con Power
Cormac Neill
Daithi O'Ceallaigh
David Croughan
David Griffin
David Gunning
Declan O'Donovan
Denis Corboy
Dermot McAleese
Dermot Scott
Don Thornhill
Donal de Buitléir
Donal Donovan
Dorcha Lee
Eamonn Thomas Walsh
Emer Haughey
Etain Doyle
Eugene Downes
Fachtina Murphy
Faye Ioannou
Finola Flanagan

Frances Ruane
Francis Jacobs
Francis M O'Donnell
Frank Kenny
Frank Masterson
Frank Wall
Gerald Fitzgerald
Gerard Cashin
Gerard O'Neill
Horst Siedschlag
Hugh Governey
Hugh Logue
J.Owen Lewis
Jim Fitzpatrick
Jim McCaffrey
Joe Brosnan
John Handoll
John Kennedy
John McKeon
John Travers
Johnny Ryan
Joseph Hickey
Katherine Meenan
Kevin P. O'Kelly
Liam Kelleher
Lochlann Quinn
Lorcan Blake
Margaret Hennessy
Marie Cross
Mark Lochrin
Mary Browne
Mary Finan
Michael McLoughlin
Michael Tutty
Miriam Hederman O'Brien
Neville Keery
Niall Greene
Niamh Haughey
Nicki O'Connor
Noel Dorr
Nora Owen

2024 LIFE MEMBERS

Odran Reid
Padraic A. White
Padraig Murphy
Pat Cox
Pat Farrell
Pat McArdle
Pat McCann
Patrick Honohan
Patrick Keatinge
Patrick Kehoe
Patrick McCaffrey
Patrick White
Paul Gallagher
Paul Gillespie
Paul Sreenan
Paul Tighe
Paul Turpin
Peter Brennan
Peter Doyle
Peter McLoone
Phil Ryan
Philip Lee
Ray MacSharry
Ray McGahern
Roderick Ryan
Ron Hill
Ronan Tynan
Ruairí Quinn
Ruth Barrington
Sean McCrum
Stephen Vernon
Sue Scott
Terence O'Rourke
Thelma Doran
Thomas Stehling
Tom Ferris
Tony Brown
Tony Smith
Una McGurk
Una O'Dwyer
William Scally

The Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) is Ireland's international affairs think tank. Founded in 1991, its mission is to foster and shape political, policy and public discourse, in order to broaden awareness of international and European issues in Ireland and contribute to more informed strategic decisions by political, business and civil society leaders.

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