Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment

# Policy Priorities for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union

1 July - 31 December 2026

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# Executive Summary

## Purpose & Context

Ireland will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1 July to 31 December 2026. The Presidency will see Ireland support and facilitate the work of the Council of the EU and facilitate cooperation among Member States and other EU institutions.

## National themes:

Ireland's Presidency will be framed around three high-level pillars: Competitiveness, EU Values and Security. These priorities will strengthen Europe's prosperity, uphold inclusion and fundamental rights, and build resilience in areas such as Supply Chains, Economic Security, Digital Infrastructure, Energy and Climate.

## Competitiveness focus:

A central priority for the Presidency will be the implementation of the One Europe, One Market Roadmap, which is focused on simplification, Single Market integration, championing stronger trade, the energy transition and digital and AI transformation. Related priorities include the implementation of the Single Market Strategy, EU Inc., the European Competitiveness Fund and the Industrial Accelerator Act.

## Digital, AI, consumer and product files:

The Presidency will seek to strengthen the EU's capacities in cloud computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI), and to advance the Union's positions on responsible digital governance. It will advance cooperation in respect of consumer protection, product regulation, standardisation and the Tech Sovereignty Package, including Chips 2.0 and the Cloud and AI Development Act.

## Industrial, scientific and innovation priorities:

This document highlights major EU initiatives in chemicals, life sciences, space, clean technologies and intellectual property. These include European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) governance reform, the EU Space Act, the European Life Sciences Strategy and Supplementary Protection Certificate reform.

## Labour market and mobility issues:

Key employment-related files for advancement during the Presidency include the Fair Labour Mobility Package, Smart Posting policies, the Traineeship Directive and the e-declaration of posted workers. These aim to support cross-border service provision while protecting workers' rights and reducing administrative burden.

## Sustainability, tourism and transport:

Further priorities include the EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy, implementation of short-term rental rules, clean corporate vehicles and broader work on climate, circular economy and environmental resilience. These measures connect economic competitiveness with sustainability and regional development.

# Table of contents


Executive Summary: 2

- Purpose & context 2
- National themes 2
- Competitiveness focus 2
- Digital, consumer and product files 3
- Industrial, scientific and innovation priorities 3
- Labour market and mobility issues 3
- Sustainability, tourism and transport 3

1: Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union 6

- Background 7
- Events and Working Parties 7

2: National High Level Themes: Competitiveness, EU Values & Security 8

- Competitiveness 9
- EU Values 10
- Security and resilience 10

3: Presidency Policy Priorities 11

- One Europe, One Market Roadmap 12
- European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) 12
- Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA) 13
- Single Market Strategy 13

| | |
|---|---|
| Better Regulation / Burden Reduction / Simplification | 14 |
| Digital Simplification | 14 |
| EU Inc. – 28th Regime | 15 |
| Digital Fairness Act (DFA) | 15 |
| European Product Act (Including New Legislative Framework (NLF) Revision) | 16 |
| European Chips Act 2.0 | 16 |
| Cloud & AI Development Act | 17 |
| Smart Posting Policies under the Fair Labour Mobility Package | 17 |
| The Traineeship Directive | 17 |
| Regulation on the e-declaration of posted workers | 17 |
| Evaluation of Standardisation Regulation 1025/2012 | 18 |
| Space for Competitiveness: Driving Innovation, Autonomy & Economic Opportunity | 18 |
| Consumer Protection Cooperation Regulation | 19 |
| Supplementary Protection Certificates | 19 |
| EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy | 20 |
| EU Short term rental regulation | 20 |
| Review of EU Chemicals Legislation | 21 |
| EU Life Sciences Developments | 21 |

# 1 Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union



## Background

Ireland holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2026 (1 July – 31 December). This represents an opportunity to demonstrate leadership at EU level. The reputation gained during the Presidency will strengthen Ireland's influence in shaping future EU policy and legislation long after the Presidency has ended.

A successful Presidency will be measured in terms of legislative files and policy initiatives advanced and in the positive perception of events held in Ireland over these six months.

The DETE Presidency Planning Team sits within our EU Affairs Unit and is leading on the policy and operational preparations within the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment (DETE), working across the Department and across Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) led Interdepartmental Group on Presidency Policy Planning (IDG PPP) and the Interdepartmental Group on Operational Presidency Planning (IDG OPP).

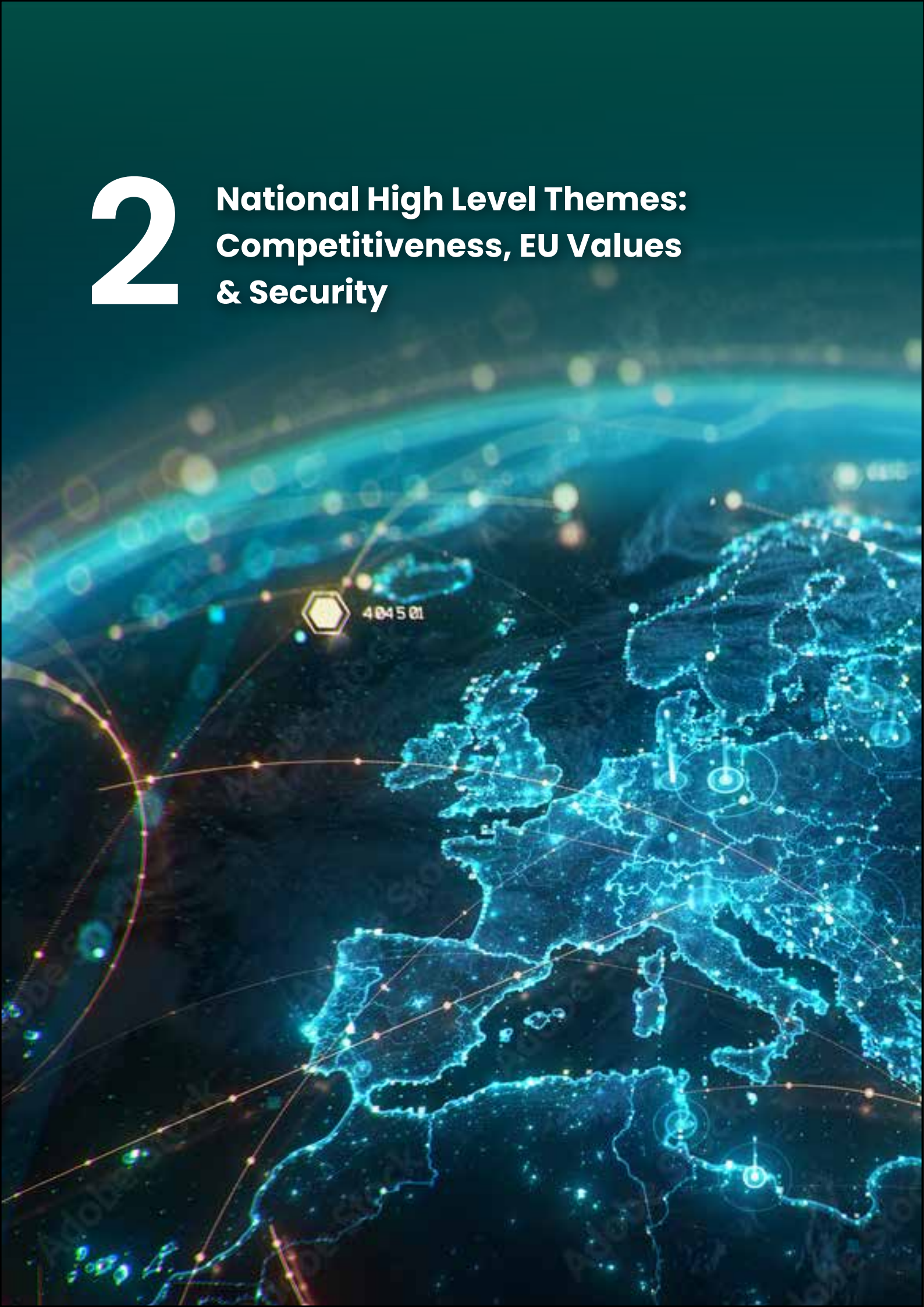
Within the Department, two working groups have been established, one at Assistant Secretary level and one at Principal Officer level, which mirror the DFAT structure of presidency policy planning and operational presidency planning.

This booklet provides an overview of the key policy priorities that DETE will advance during Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the EU.

## Events and Working Parties

DETE will be hosting 14 events in Ireland during the four and a half active months of the Presidency, including the COMPET (Internal Market & Industry) Informal, the Consumer Ministerial, the Consumer Summit, the International AI Summit and the SME & Clusters Assembly. DETE officials will chair, co-chair and provide delegates for approximately 20 Working Parties during the presidency, chairing and co-chairing over 130 Working Party meetings.

# 2 National High Level Themes: Competitiveness, EU Values & Security



The high-level themes of Ireland's Presidency fall within the three following pillars:

- **Competitiveness** – fostering prosperity and wellbeing
- **EU Values** – upholding the indispensable foundation of our Union
- **Security** – protecting our citizens

These three pillars will be the central themes of the Irish Presidency. In an uncertain time, we will also work to strengthen and stabilise the EU's relationships with neighbours and with partners around the world.

## Competitiveness

In order to deliver a secure economic future which meets the needs and expectations of its people, Europe must act urgently to enhance its competitiveness and productivity. The One Europe, One Market Roadmap, agreed by the Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament, provides a blueprint to achieve decisive progress in 2026. Our work will be guided by the five agreed strategic building blocks:

### 1. Simplifying rules

The Department will reduce unnecessary administrative burdens through prioritisation of the Omnibus simplification packages.

### 2. A more integrated Single Market

A Single Market is the foundation of Europe's economy and prosperity. The Irish Presidency will work to eliminate barriers, tackle regulatory burdens, boost internal market trade, drive digital transformation and ensure a level playing field for businesses operating across the EU.

### 3. Championing strong trade

An ambitious trade policy agenda, which strengthens our trade relationships with reliable global partners and diversifies our markets, will also be at the core of our efforts.

### 4. Energy transition

We will support measures to ensure the protection and resilience of energy infrastructure, and work to accelerate the clean energy transition and phasing out dependence on fossil fuel imports.

### 5. Digital/AI

We will seek to strengthen the EU's capacities in cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI), and to advance the Union's positions on responsible digital governance.

## EU Values

Our shared values contained in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are the foundation upon which our Union is built. They are the bedrock that makes Europe a good place to live, work and visit and they underpin our competitiveness and our security. Now more than ever, the EU needs to defend and vindicate those values within Europe and globally.

The Irish Presidency will seek to strengthen the EU's approach to equality, social inclusion, non-discrimination and the protection of the rights of minorities. We will promote the full participation of disabled people in Europe's social and economic life.

We will work to support a socio-economic model that emphasises societal resilience, inclusion and cohesion, and will take forward initiatives on employment, supporting quality jobs within modern labour markets. We will seek to enhance the health of Europe's population through prevention and health innovation.

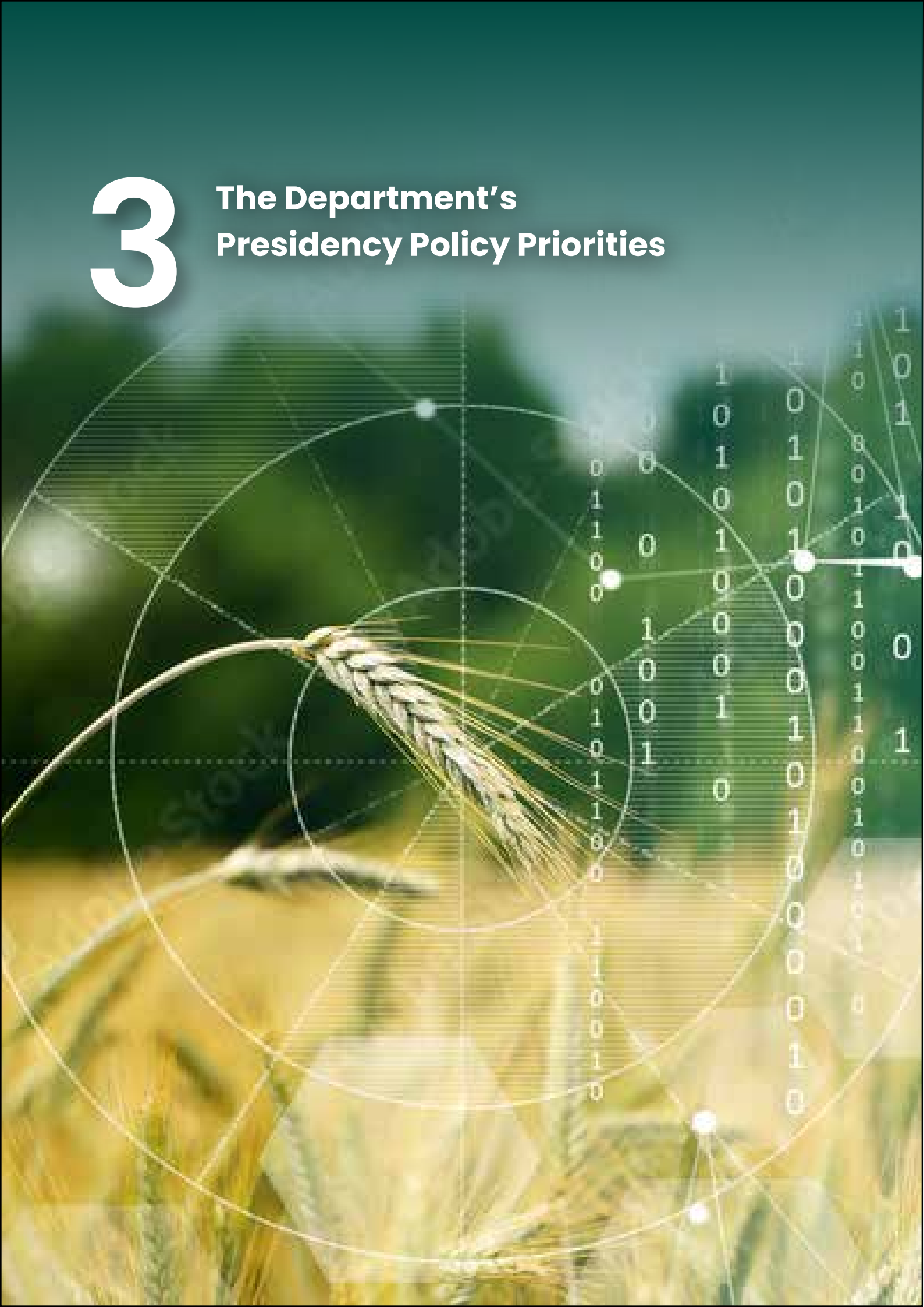
## Security and resilience

We recognise the importance of strengthening Europe's economic security and industrial resilience, as essential to competitiveness and strategic autonomy. This will include advancing measures to diversify and secure supply chains, reduce dependencies in critical sectors, and support the development of key industries such as semiconductors, advanced manufacturing and clean technologies.

Ireland will engage with our EU partners in work on investment screening, outbound investment risk and the broader economic security framework, ensuring that openness to trade and investment is balanced with the protection of strategic assets and technologies. In parallel, enhancing cybersecurity, resilience of digital and energy infrastructure and supporting innovation in dual-use and defence-related industries will be important areas of focus, helping to safeguard Europe's economic base while reinforcing its capacity to respond to emerging geopolitical and technological risks.

We will address Europe's security in all its dimensions, working to enhance environmental security as an important element of the Irish Presidency's agenda. Particular attention will be paid to accelerating climate action at EU and international levels as well as the EU's global leadership on climate and biodiversity. We will also advance work to promote and develop the circular economy. We will work to strengthen economic security, build greater health security and reinforce Europe's food security.

# 3 The Department's Presidency Policy Priorities



During the Presidency period, Ireland will have significant responsibility for advancing the work of the Council of the EU by acting as an honest broker and facilitating cooperation among Member States and other EU institutions. This section sets out the policy priorities that Ireland will seek to advance on behalf of the European Union during its Presidency.

## One Europe, One Market Roadmap

The European Council has recognised the urgent need to tackle fragmentation across the Single Market and to make it simpler for people and businesses. In March, EU leaders called on Member States and EU institutions to prevent and remove barriers to the four freedoms; free movement of goods, services, capital, and people, with concrete progress to be made by end 2027.

This led to the launch of the One Europe, One Market Roadmap to strengthen the EU's competitiveness, resilience, strategic autonomy and economic security. The Roadmap will be implemented in 2026 where possible and by the end of 2027 at the latest, making it a key priority for Ireland's Presidency and for its Trio Presidency partners, Lithuania and Greece.

The Roadmap, agreed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, commits the institutions to decisive progress across five strategic building blocks: simplifying rules; creating a more integrated Single Market; championing strong trade; reducing energy prices and decarbonisation; and driving the digital and AI transformation.

The Roadmap sets out priority legislative and policy initiatives, along with timelines for delivery, and gives them the highest political priority. Progress will be monitored through regular stocktaking, with the institutions meeting quarterly to review implementation, identify obstacles and coordinate next steps.

## European Competitiveness Fund (ECF)

The new European Competitiveness Fund, worth €409 billion, will invest in strategic technologies, to benefit the entire Single Market, as recommended in the Letta and Draghi Reports. It will leverage private money and offer support for the entire investment journey of a project, from conception phase to scale-up. The desired result is a rethink of how the EU budget funds competitiveness while becoming simpler, policy-driven and delivering more impact.

The Fund will focus its support on four areas: clean transition and decarbonisation; digital transition; health, biotech, agriculture and bioeconomy; defence and space.

## Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA)

The Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA), adopted on 4 March 2026, is a legislative initiative under the EU's Clean Industrial Deal to support industrial renewal, decarbonisation and competitiveness across the EU. It will be a priority file for the Irish Presidency and a key lever for strengthening Europe's industrial base.

The IAA aims to increase manufacturing's share of EU GDP to at least 20% by 2035, from 14.3% currently. It focuses on barriers to industrial decarbonisation and investment, including unfair competition, value-chain dependencies, limited demand for low-carbon European products and slow or fragmented permitting procedures.

To address these barriers, the proposal introduces measures to speed up permitting of industrial manufacturing projects, and introduces measures to create markets for clean European products through public procurement and support schemes, and ensure inward investment adds value to the Single Market.

## Single Market Strategy

The EU Single Market Strategy, published on 21st May 2025, aims to reduce fragmentation and deepen the Single Market across its various policy areas, in particular by enhancing the free movement of goods and services, as well as strengthening governance instruments and enforcement rules within the Single Market. It has been developed in the context of a broader range of policies collectively tasked with enhancing EU competitiveness, as highlighted in the EU's Competitiveness Compass strategy.

The strategy focuses on 5 areas viewed as essential to addressing fragmentation and deepening the Single Market, with 59 associated actions, a number of which feature in the One Europe, One Market Roadmap: (1) removing the "Terrible Ten" most prominent barriers within the Single Market; (2) boosting European Services Markets; (3) the enabling of SMEs; (4) Digitalising the Single Market; and (5) enforcement of Single Market rules.

In line with One Europe, One Market, the European Council has called on Member States and the EU institutions to prevent and remove Single Market barriers, notably those identified in the Single Market Strategy, with a view to achieving concrete and tangible progress by March 2027 at the latest.

## Better Regulation / Burden Reduction / Simplification

Simplification of EU rules and regulations is a major political priority aimed at strengthening competitiveness, reducing unnecessary administrative burdens, and making EU legislation easier to implement. The European Commission has committed to reducing administrative burdens by at least **25% overall and 35% for SMEs by 2029**, with a target of delivering **€37.5 billion in annual savings** through simplification measures. The main vehicle for achieving this is a series of **Omnibus simplification packages.**

The Commission has proposed **12 Omnibus packages** covering areas including sustainability reporting, agriculture, digital regulation, defence, chemicals, environment, automotive, taxation and energy. The Commission estimates these measures could reduce administrative costs by around **€20 billion annually.**

**Most of the first six packages have been agreed, while negotiations continue on the remaining proposals.** The recently agreed **One Europe, One Market Roadmap** commits the EU institutions to finalising the 2025 Omnibus packages by the end of 2026 and the taxation and energy packages by late 2027.

**The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade coordinates Ireland's approach** across Government through established EU policy coordination structures.

## Digital Simplification

Building on initial digital regulations establishing the Digital Single Market Initiative, significant developments to the EU's digital rulebook were achieved during the previous European Commission mandate. These digital regulations focus on governing platforms and data flows as well as security and safety. They refine the base line rules for the Digital Single Market that were adopted through initial regulations including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) or the free flow of non-personal data regulation. This brings compliance challenges for companies, particularly small and medium size enterprises. It has also put a strain on domestic regulators, who have absorbed a number of new responsibilities over a relatively short period.

The EU Digital Omnibus proposal, which is a proposal on digital and AI regulation, was published on 19th November 2025. There are three core areas in this proposal: Data Acquis consolidation, Cybersecurity Incident Reporting and GDPR amendments. It proposes to house the Open Data Directive, Free Flow of Non-Personal Data and the Data Governance Act within the Data Act and repeal remaining provisions. It also proposes amendments to the Data Act Regulation. The proposal on AI Regulation is intended to simplify and streamline compliance with the AI Act and address some implementation challenges.

Provisional agreement on the Digital Omnibus on AI was reached on 7 May between the co-legislators - the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. The Digital Omnibus on data, GDPR and cybersecurity will be a live file during Ireland's presidency and Ireland remains committed to advancing this file as a priority.

## EU Inc. – 28th Regime

EU Inc. is an optional, digital-by-default European corporate framework intended to make it easier for businesses to start, operate and grow across the EU.

EU Inc. provides for faster (within 48 hours), fully digital online registration, at a maximum cost of €100; with simplified procedures throughout the company life cycle, easier digital share transfers and capital operations, support for modern financial instruments and the possibility for Member States to allow access to public equity markets. It also allows automatic transmission of company data shared with public authorities based on the "once-only principle," while incorporating safeguards to prevent fraud and abuse.

## Digital Fairness Act (DFA)

The Digital Fairness Act (DFA) will be launched by Commissioner Michael McGrath in his role as Commissioner of Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection. The Commission is keen to point out that the DFA will not introduce new obligations or requirements of business, rather it is filling the gaps that have become apparent since the implementation of the other elements and instruments within the digital rulebook. The findings of the **Digital Fairness Fitness Check** were published in October 2024 found that while regulation has provided certainty and consumer trust, consumers do not always feel fully in control of their online experience due to practices such as:

- Dark patterns in online interfaces that can unfairly influence their decisions
- Addictive design of digital services that pushes consumers to keep using the service or spend more.
- Personalised targeting that takes advantage of consumers' vulnerabilities
- Digital subscriptions that are difficult to manage and cancel, and
- Commercial content and practices used by social media influencers

It is anticipated that the DFA, as well as addressing harmful problematic practices to increase consumer trust in digital technologies and reduce consumer detriment, will also:

- reduce legal uncertainty for market participants, preventing regulatory fragmentation and promote fair growth and competitiveness in the digital economy;
- ensure the consistent application of EU consumer law and the digital rulebook
- facilitate more effective enforcement and compliance with EU consumer law, and simplify the existing rules in the areas identified, without compromising the objective of a high level of consumer protection.

## European Product Act (Including New Legislative Framework (NLF) Revision)

The forthcoming European Product Act underpins EU product legislation, aiming to ensure the free movement of goods, robust conformity assessment, and effective market surveillance. Following an evaluation published in November 2022, the European Commission launched a Call for Evidence in July 2025 to inform a potential legislative revision. The revision of the NLF seeks to modernise its response to digitalisation, circular economy goals, and evolving market conditions. A legislative proposal is expected shortly and this will therefore be a live file during Ireland's Presidency.

Based on the findings of a comprehensive impact assessment and stakeholder input, the Commission will prepare a legislative proposal to revise the NLF, expected to be presented in Quarter 3 2026.

## European Chips Act 2.0

Chips 2.0 was published in June 2026 as part of the EU Tech Sovereignty Package.

The initiative aims to strengthen EU leadership in semiconductor materials, manufacturing equipment, research and development, electronic design automation, and foundational chip technologies, while reducing strategic dependencies through increased manufacturing capacity, stronger demand, and international cooperation.

Key measures include enhanced Research and Development support, greater funding for start-ups and SMEs, support for industrial scale-up and pilot lines, demand stimulation through public procurement, simplified rules for strategic semiconductor projects and production facilities, identification of Semiconductor Regions of Excellence, and measures to improve supply chain resilience and awareness.

## Cloud & AI Development Act

The Cloud and AI Development Act (CADA) is a central element of the EU's Tech Sovereignty agenda, designed to strengthen European capacity in cloud and AI and reduce reliance on a limited number of non-EU providers. It combines measures to accelerate data centre deployment, including streamlined permitting and "acceleration zones", with support for research and innovation, and the introduction of a Union Cloud and AI Sovereignty Framework that certifies providers based on factors such as ownership, control, jurisdiction and supply chains, with significant implications for public procurement.

## Smart Posting Policies under the Fair Labour Mobility Package

The Single Market Strategy, identifies 'Burdensome procedures for temporary posting of workers' as one of the ten most harmful Single Market barriers. The first action under this heading is addressed by the e-declaration and revision of social security coordination.

The second action is a new initiative called the Fair Labour Mobility Package, expected to be launched in 2026. It includes a sub-action to consider measures to make it easier to temporarily provide services cross-border, while protecting workers' rights.

## The Traineeship Directive

The Directive, published in March 2024, lays down a common framework of principles and measures to improve and enforce the working conditions of trainees and to combat employment relationships being disguised as traineeships.

## Regulation on the e-declaration of posted workers

A posted worker is an employee temporarily sent by their employer to provide a service in another EU Member State. EU rules require host Member States to apply minimum national employment standards to posted workers, with Ireland's requirements enforced by the Workplace Relations Commission, which currently requires service providers to submit a prescribed declaration.

In November 2024, the European Commission proposed a Regulation to establish a multilingual EU web portal, linked to the Internal Market Information System, to facilitate electronic posting declarations. The proposal aims to simplify and harmonise cross-border service procedures while protecting workers' rights, with agreement on common information requirements remaining a key negotiating issue.

Agreement amongst the institutions was reached on this file on 30th June 2026. The Irish Presidency will complete all remaining technical work on this file during it's Presidency.

## Evaluation of Standardisation Regulation 1025/2012

In 2025 the Commission carried out an evaluation of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 on European standardisation in order to assess how well the EU's standardisation framework was working and whether it remains fit for purpose.

In its 2026 Work Programme, the Commission announced a review of the Standardisation Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012).

## Space for Competitiveness: Driving Innovation, Autonomy & Economic Opportunity

The Draghi & Letta Reports identified space as a key strategic sector, essential for European autonomy and security. The evolving geopolitical landscape has also highlighted the need to safeguard critical space infrastructure – vital for navigation, communications, defence and daily services – which is relied upon by citizens, industry and governments alike.

Beyond its strategic importance, the space sector offers significant economic potential with the global space economy projected to exceed €1 trillion by 2040. However, Europe risks falling behind key global competitors. To maintain its leadership, the EU must embrace innovation and accelerate investment in space technologies.

To address these concerns, the European Commission has published the **EU Space Act** in June 2025, the general objective of which is to support the development and functioning of the internal market for the space sector, providing a harmonised legal framework for space activities across the EU. Furthermore, the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) Regulation and **EU Space Services Agency Regulation** also seek to promote the development and deployment of space technologies for the benefit of European society and economy by supporting the effective implementation of the EU's ambitious space agenda. The EU Space Services Agency Regulation establishes what is currently known as the 'EU Agency for the Space Programme' as a permanent operational agency and tasks the Agency with implementing the Union Space Programme for 2028-2034, supporting the delivery of the ECF.

## Consumer Protection Cooperation Regulation (CPC)

The CPC Regulation is the EU framework that allows national authorities and the Commission to coordinate enforcement of consumer law where practices harm consumers across multiple Member States. It is the principal tool for dealing with large scale digital cases, including online platforms and non-EU traders targeting EU consumers. Its effectiveness is therefore central to ensuring that existing consumer law is enforced consistently and credibly, and to reducing pressure for additional regulation.

In July 2024, the Commission published its Report on the application of the CPC Regulation, concluding that while the framework has helped address widespread breaches, current mechanisms are not sufficiently effective to deal with the scale, speed and complexity of digital cases. The Commission identified slow procedures, uneven follow-up and limited deterrence as recurring weaknesses in coordinated actions.

A revision is expected to be presented by the Commission in the second half of the Irish Presidency.

## Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPC)

SPCs are intellectual property rights that extend patent protection for medicinal and plant protection products by up to five years and aim to offset losses companies may incur during lengthy clinical trial processes that may be required to secure marketing authorisation. Currently, SPC protection is only available at national level.

In April 2023, the European Commission published a suite of regulatory proposals aimed at reforming the system of SPCs for medicinal and plant protection products. This package comprised four proposals; two of which establish a new Unitary SPC to complement the Unitary Patent system (COM(2023)221 for medicinal products and COM(2023) 222 for plant protection products) – along with two “recast” proposals to replace the existing EU SPC Regulations (COM(2023) 231 for medicinal products and COM(2023) 223 for plant protection products). The proposed framework aims to reduce fragmentation and costs, increase transparency, and to deliver consistent outcomes for medicinal and plant protection product producers across the European Union. Ireland will chair Working Party meetings throughout its Presidency and remains committed to progressing this file as a key priority.

## EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy

In May 2025, the European Commission launched a targeted consultation to gather stakeholder input for the development of the Strategy, building on the 2022 Transition Pathway for Tourism and the EU Agenda for Tourism 2030. In December 2025, the European Commission published a report identifying ongoing implementation gaps across Member States and highlighting five priority areas which will contribute to an EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy.

The proposed EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy will provide a coordinated framework to support the transition of Europe's tourism sector towards greater environmental, social, and economic sustainability. It will cover measures to reduce the environmental impact of tourism, including lower carbon emissions, sustainable transport, energy efficiency, waste reduction, and the protection of biodiversity and cultural heritage.

The strategy will also address the resilience and competitiveness of tourism businesses, particularly SMEs, through digital innovation, skills development, and support for green investment. In addition, it will promote inclusive and responsible tourism practices that benefit local communities, improve accessibility, and encourage year-round tourism across regions. The strategy will align with broader EU priorities such as the European Green Deal, climate neutrality objectives, and sustainable regional development.

## EU Short term Rental Regulation and the Affordable Housing Act

The EU Regulation on data collection and sharing for short-term accommodation rentals, which amends Regulation (EU) 2018/1724, came into effect on 20 May 2026. The Regulation establishes harmonised rules for the registration of short-term rental hosts and the collection and sharing of data on short-term rental activity. Its aim is to increase transparency in the sector, support enforcement, and provide policymakers with reliable data on the impact of short-term rentals on local housing markets.

On 9 September 2026, the European Commission published its proposed Regulation on measures to safeguard housing affordability and availability as part of the wider European Affordable Housing Plan. The proposal seeks to address increasing housing affordability challenges across the EU by providing Member States with a harmonised legal framework for introducing restrictions on short-term rentals and on the acquisition or use of residential property that is not used as a primary residence in areas experiencing housing stress.

The proposal is intended to support Member States, regions and local authorities in addressing housing shortages while ensuring that any restrictions are justified, transparent, proportionate, and non-discriminatory. Data collected under the EU Short-Term Rental Regulation will play an important role in providing the evidence base required to demonstrate housing stress and the impact of short-term rental activity where Member States wish to introduce restrictions.

The proposal also introduces a specific legal framework for housing-related restrictions on short-term accommodation rentals. Measures adopted under the Regulation would not be subject to the notification requirements of the Services Directive (2006/123/EC), while existing measures adopted before the Regulation enters into force would generally remain unaffected. Article 14 provides that the Regulation does not apply to measures already in place, allowing existing national restrictions on short-term rentals, second homes and vacant properties to continue to operate.

## Review of EU Chemicals Legislation

The sixth revision of the Carcinogens, Mutagens and Reprotoxic Substances Directive (CMRD6), which seeks to strengthen worker protection from hazardous substances achieved political agreement in June 2026 and will require final technical work under the Irish Presidency. The Commission has also established a Critical Chemicals Alliance to support the sector.

## EU Life Sciences Developments

Reform and investment in the European Life Sciences sector is essential to ensuring that Europe remains globally competitive, has a resilient economy and can deliver enhanced public health outcomes for its citizens. The Draghi Report identified this sector as needing reform to unlock innovation, drive job creation and enhance competitiveness. Recent EU Initiatives - including the Critical Medicines Act, the Medical Device Regulation Review, the Pharma Regulation Package, Biotech Act I and the forthcoming Biotech Act II - underscore this sector's central role in EU strategic planning.

In July 2025, the EU also published the European Life Sciences Strategy. This Strategy is aimed at boosting European competitiveness in the sector. While Europe has long been a leader and remains a key centre for life sciences, it is increasingly challenged due to increased global competition. A key objective of this strategy is to reverse this trend and position Europe as the most attractive place for life sciences by 2030.

## During the course of it's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Ireland has a unique opportunity to help shape the policies and partnerships that will drive Europe's future prosperity.

Through a focus on competitiveness, innovation, sustainability, investment and regulatory simplification, Ireland will work collaboratively with Member States and EU institutions to advance a legislative agenda that delivers tangible benefits for businesses, workers, consumers and communities across the Union. Ireland's leadership during this period will reinforce the value of a strong, resilient and integrated Single Market while supporting Europe's digital and green transitions.

The Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment will play a central role in delivering these ambitions, helping to progress key initiatives that strengthen innovation, consumer confidence, quality employment and long-term economic resilience. Through engagement with citizens, stakeholders, industry leaders and policymakers, Ireland's Presidency will showcase the power of European cooperation in addressing shared challenges and opportunities. As the program unfolds, clear communication, collaboration and a commitment to delivering practical outcomes will be essential to ensuring that Ireland leaves a positive and lasting impact, helping to build a more competitive, connected and future-focused Europe for all it's citizens.

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Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026