

IRISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION 2026

Associated Events for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026

In the context of Ireland's forthcoming rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union, an extensive and wide-ranging programme of meetings, events and conferences will take place across the State, reflecting the scale, diversity and policy ambition of the Presidency. Delivery of this programme of events is being guided by a 'Categorisation Framework for Meetings and Events' developed in line with recent Government Decisions on Presidency Planning, to support coherent, efficient and cost-effective delivery across Government.

Within this framework, provision is made for a category of *Associated Events*. This category is intended to encompass, in the main, events led and funded by external bodies, including representative organisations, academic institutions, sectoral bodies and civil society organisations, which have a demonstrable connection to EU Presidency themes and priorities. While they will not receive central logistical or financial support from EU Presidency Planning structures, it is envisioned that Associated Events will form part of the broader Presidency events programme and narrative.

This paper sets out the proposed approach to the identification, submission and recognition of Associated Events.

1. Rationale for Associated Events

The recognition of Associated Events is intended to:

- Enable broader participation in Ireland's EU Presidency by civil society, business, academic and other external stakeholders;
- Leverage the expertise, networks and capacity of external stakeholders and partners;
- Extend the reach and visibility of EU Presidency policy themes beyond high-level and official-level meetings;
- Ensure coherence, oversight and reputational assurance for events connected to the Presidency.

The hosting of Associated Events provides an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the Presidency agenda in a structured manner, while ensuring alignment with Government priorities and reputational safeguards.

2. Definition and Status of Associated Events

Associated Events are defined as events which:

- Are led, organised and funded by external bodies, typically civil society organisations or non-governmental organisations (in certain cases, the events may be organised by Government Departments or State Agencies in partnership with external bodies);
- Take place in Ireland during the EU Presidency term (1 July – 31 December 2026);
- Have clear relevance to EU policy areas, Irish Presidency themes or priorities;
- Are supported by a recognised relationship with a Government Department

In line with the Categorisation Framework:

- Associated Events will **not** receive financial, logistical or operational support from central Presidency planning structures and they will not be covered by the standard Presidency accreditation process (DFAT/OPW);
- Associated Events **may**, subject to approval, be listed on the official EU Presidency Calendar;
- Limited use of official EU Presidency branding may be permitted for use in accordance with agreed branding and communications guidelines.

3. Role of Government Departments

It is proposed that submissions for recognition of Associated Events be made via Government Departments. Departments will be requested to:

- Act as the formal channel for submission of proposals for events related to their areas of policy responsibility;
- Confirm the existence of a recognised relationship with the proposing stakeholder(s);
- Vouch for the credibility, appropriateness and policy relevance of the event;
- Provide assurance that the event aligns with emerging EU Presidency priorities and reputational standards.

Departmental endorsement does not imply financial or operational responsibility for the event.

4. Key Timelines

The following key timelines are proposed for the submission and review of Associated Events:

- **Wednesday, 4 February 2026** – DFAT Presidency Policy Unit to contact Government Departments to request they open calls for submissions for associated events with relevant stakeholders.
- **Wednesday, 25 February 2026** – Initial deadline for submissions to be received by Departments. Departments should review submissions and forward them to Presidency Policy Unit.
- **Friday, 6 March 2026** – Deadline for sending all Associated Events to the Presidency Policy Unit for initial list to be collated. This list is intended to be circulated in advance of the March IDG-PPP meeting.

Note: Submissions will continue to be accepted after these dates, and the list of Associated Events will be updated periodically. However these deadlines are intended to establish an active initial list.

5. Proposed Submission and Review Process

The following process is proposed

i. Application Form:

- Host organisations complete a short application form (See Appendix A) and submit it to the relevant Government Department.

- The form will capture key information including event objectives, timing, policy relevance, stakeholder profile and proposed use of Presidency branding.

ii. *Departmental Review and Endorsement:*

- Departments review applications and, where appropriate, provide formal endorsement by completing the relevant section of the Application Form.
- Endorsed applications are submitted to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Presidency Policy Unit.

iii. *Policy and Framework Review*

- The DFAT Presidency Policy Unit reviews submissions to ensure consistency with the Categorisation Framework, alignment with Presidency priorities, and adherence to branding and reputational considerations.

iv. *Confirmation and Recognition*

- Approved events are formally confirmed as Associated Events in writing to relevant host organisations and sponsor Departments.
- Confirmed events may be included on the official EU Presidency Calendar on the Presidency website, and granted access to approved Presidency branding once it becomes available (June 2026).

6. Eligibility Criteria

To be recognised as an Associated Event under the Categorisation Framework, an event should:

- Fall clearly within the official EU Presidency timeline;
- Demonstrate relevance to Ireland's EU Presidency policy themes or priorities;
- Be organised by credible non-governmental stakeholders with an established relationship with a Government Department;
- Have the support of a relevant Government Department;
- Comply with applicable communications and branding guidelines.

Application Form for Associated Events*(To be submitted via the relevant Government Department)*

Event Details	
Event title:	
Proposed Date(s):	
Proposed Location (city/venue or online):	
Event Format (e.g. conference, seminar, workshop, roundtable):	
Lead Host Organisation	
Organisation Name:	
Primary Contact Name:	
Position/Role:	
Email Address:	
Telephone:	
Event Description and Objectives (maximum 200 words)	
<p><i>Please briefly outline the purpose of the event, key themes to be discussed and the intended audience.</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>	
Relevance to the EU Presidency (maximum 150 words)	
<p><i>Please outline how the event aligns with EU Presidency policy themes or priorities, including any specific EU policy areas addressed.</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>	

Relationship with the Sponsoring Government Department (maximum 100 words) <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; margin-top: 10px;"></div>									
Funding and Delivery <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">The event is fully funded and delivered by the organiser(s).</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-top: 10px;">No financial or logistical support is requested from Central EU Presidency Planning teams.</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> </tr> </table>		The event is fully funded and delivered by the organiser(s).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No	No financial or logistical support is requested from Central EU Presidency Planning teams.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
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EU Presidency Branding and Calendar <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%; vertical-align: top;"> <i>Branding:</i> The organiser seeks approval to use EU Presidency branding in accordance with official guidelines. </td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <i>Calendar Listing:</i> The organiser seeks inclusion of the event on the official EU Presidency Calendar. </td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> </tr> </table>		<i>Branding:</i> The organiser seeks approval to use EU Presidency branding in accordance with official guidelines.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>Calendar Listing:</i> The organiser seeks inclusion of the event on the official EU Presidency Calendar.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
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Declaration (Lead Organisation) <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%; vertical-align: top;"> I confirm that the information provided is accurate and that the event will be delivered in line with EU Presidency standards, branding guidelines and reputational requirements. </td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Please check this box to confirm</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Name: </td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		I confirm that the information provided is accurate and that the event will be delivered in line with EU Presidency standards, branding guidelines and reputational requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/> Please check this box to confirm	Name:					
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Name:									

Signature:	
Date:	
Departmental Endorsement	
The Department confirms its support for this application and its assessment that the proposed event is appropriate for consideration as an EU Presidency Associated Event.	<input type="checkbox"/> Please check this box to confirm
Department:	
Name:	
Title / Unit:	
Signature:	
Date:	
Submission:	

Submission:

Completed forms should be submitted to the Presidency Planning Team, Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment at presidency@enterprise.gov.ie by noon on 25th February 2025.

APPENDIX 1: "Affiliated Events" from Ireland's 2013 Presidency

	Event Title	Lead Department
1	FVE- Caring for Health +Welfare of Fish: A critical Success Factor for Aquaculture	D/Agriculture, Food and the Marine
2	COPA-CEGECE Conference on Healthier Animals + Plants for a Safer Food Chain	D/Agriculture, Food and the Marine
3	IFAH- Europe (Vet Medicines Manufacturers)	D/Agriculture, Food and the Marine
4	Aosdána Assembly	D/Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
5	Cultural Contacts	D/Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
6	Informal European Theatre Meeting (IETM)	D/Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
7	La Recontre (Fingal County/ Dublin)	D/Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
8	World Actor's Forum	D/Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
9	European Renewable Energy Council (EREC)	D/Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
10	AEBIOM - Bioenergy Conference 2013	D/Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
11	CEDEC Conference	D/Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
12	European Conference on Renewable Heating and Cooking (RHC)	D/Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
13	EUFORES	D/Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
14	Planning for the Long Term. Creating National Renovation Strategies.	D/Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
15	Single Energy Market Conference	D/Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
16	Greenway	D/Communications, Energy and Natural Resources / D/Environment, Community and Local Government
17	Greenway European Cluster Manager Meeting	D/Environment, Community and Local Government
18	The General Assembly of CECODHAS	D/Environment, Community and Local Government
19	European Volunteer Centre's Spring 2013 General Assembly + Symposium	D/Environment, Community and Local Government
20	Coface	D/Children and Youth Affairs
21	Active Ageing	D/Environment, Community and Local Government
22	EcoClup	D/Environment, Community and Local Government
23	"Population Ageing: Opportunities and Challenges, The New Agenda on Ageing" Ageing Well Network	D/Environment, Community and Local Government
24	European Environment Agency (EEA) Conference	D/Environment, Community and Local Government
25	European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) Conference	D/Environment, Community and Local Government
26	Ministerial Meeting regarding Homelessness (Brussels)	D/Environment, Community and Local Government

27	Meeting of EU Experts - The Future Challenges of the Montréal Protocol	D/Environment, Community and Local Government
28	Water Framework Directive Workshop	D/Environment, Community and Local Government
29	European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information	D/Environment, Community and Local Government
30	Wild Nephin Wilderness Conference	D/Environment, Community and Local Government
31	ESF Technical Working Group	D/Education and Skills
32	European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network	D/Education and Skills
33	European Agency for Development in Special Needs	D/Education and Skills
34	European Union Association (EUA) Breakfast Meeting (Brussels)	D/Education and Skills
35	DG Schools (Brussels)	D/Education and Skills
36	Conference on Validation of Non-Formal and Informal Learning	D/Education and Skills
37	European Training Foundation - Torino Process	D/Education and Skills
38	EIT	D/Education and Skills
39	ILGA - Europe	D/Education and Skills
40	ICEL	D/Foreign Affairs and Trade / D/Taoiseach
41	The Role of Volunteering for Development in Post-2015 World	D/Foreign Affairs and Trade
42	World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty	D/Foreign Affairs and Trade
43	EuroCarers	D/Health
44	European Risk Summit	D/Health
45	European National Public Health Institutes Directors	D/Health
46	Innovation in Healthcare - Rare Diseases: Approaches and Best Practices	D/Health
47	International Rare Diseases Research Consortium 2013	D/Health
48	European Alliance for Personalised Medicine (EAPM)	D/Health
49	Irish Cancer Society (European Week Against Cancer)	D/Health
50	Irish Men's Health Forum	D/Health
51	ICEL - Recovery of Criminal Assets	D/Justice and Equality
52	ANSI-ESO Joint Presidents Group Meeting Conference (aka Linking Standardisation Research + Innovation)	D/Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
53	European Data Forum	D/Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
54	Space Maritime Policy Conference	D/Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
55	WIT	D/Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
56	Collaborate to Innovate: Access Horizon 2020	D/Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
57	ICEL - EU Public Procurement	D/Public Expenditure and Reform
58	European Social Services Conference / ESN	D/Social Protection
59	DG Schools (Brussels)	D/Social Protection

60	EESC "Ireland 40 years on: the benefits, opportunities and challenges of EU membership" - EM Ireland	D/Taoiseach
61	ETUC	D/Taoiseach
62	Intel Innovation Summit	D/Taoiseach
63	Inter-Cultural Cities	D/Taoiseach