# Ireland's Presidency of the Council of Europe

**Ragnar Almqvist** 

Council of Europe Presidency Task Team

**Department of Foreign Affairs** 



# The Council of Europe and the European Union

Council of Europe		European Union
1949	Established	1957
46	Member states	27
700 million	Population	448 million
0	Flag	0
Ode to Joy	Anthem	Ode to Joy



Legal cooperation The EU participates in 12 CoE conventions and several of its

specialised bodies.

#### **Technical cooperation**

47 joint programmes worth a total of €207.5 million across Europe and beyond\* \*As of 03/05/2022





## March 2022: From 47 member states to 46



## Ireland & 'The Conscience of Europe'

- Founding State London, 1949
- First State to recognise the European Court of Human Rights
- Second to recognise its competence to receive petitions from any person, NGO or group
- CoE membership a bridge from isolation to integration
- Sean MacBride, 1951: "erect above the tumult an ideal around which the conscience of mankind" could rally
- Máire Mhac an tSaoi, 1961: "a stage in international progress unimaginable before the last war"
- John Hume, 1998: "Difference is the essence of humanity... the answer to difference is to respect it"



#### **'Our Founding Freedoms': Reinforcing Human Rights & the Protection of Civilians in Europe**





#### 'Fáilte': Fostering a Europe of Welcome, Inclusion, and Diversity







#### 'Hear Our Voices': Promoting Participatory Democracy & Youth Engagement





### Renewing the Conscience of Europe





#### **Reaffirming the Conscience of Europe**

## Wider Agenda:

- War Ukraine, Russia, Belarus
- Institutional Budget, CM Reform, EU, 4<sup>th</sup> Summit
- Political Kosovo application, Kavala ruling
- Northern Ireland Legacy Cases & UK Bill of Rights





**Presidency of Ireland** Council of Europe May - November 2022

**Présidence de l'Irlande** Conseil de l'Europe Mai - Novembre 2022

#### COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE