



Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland

100 Years of Ireland's Foreign and Economic Policy

Martin Wall, Head of Public Diplomacy and Press

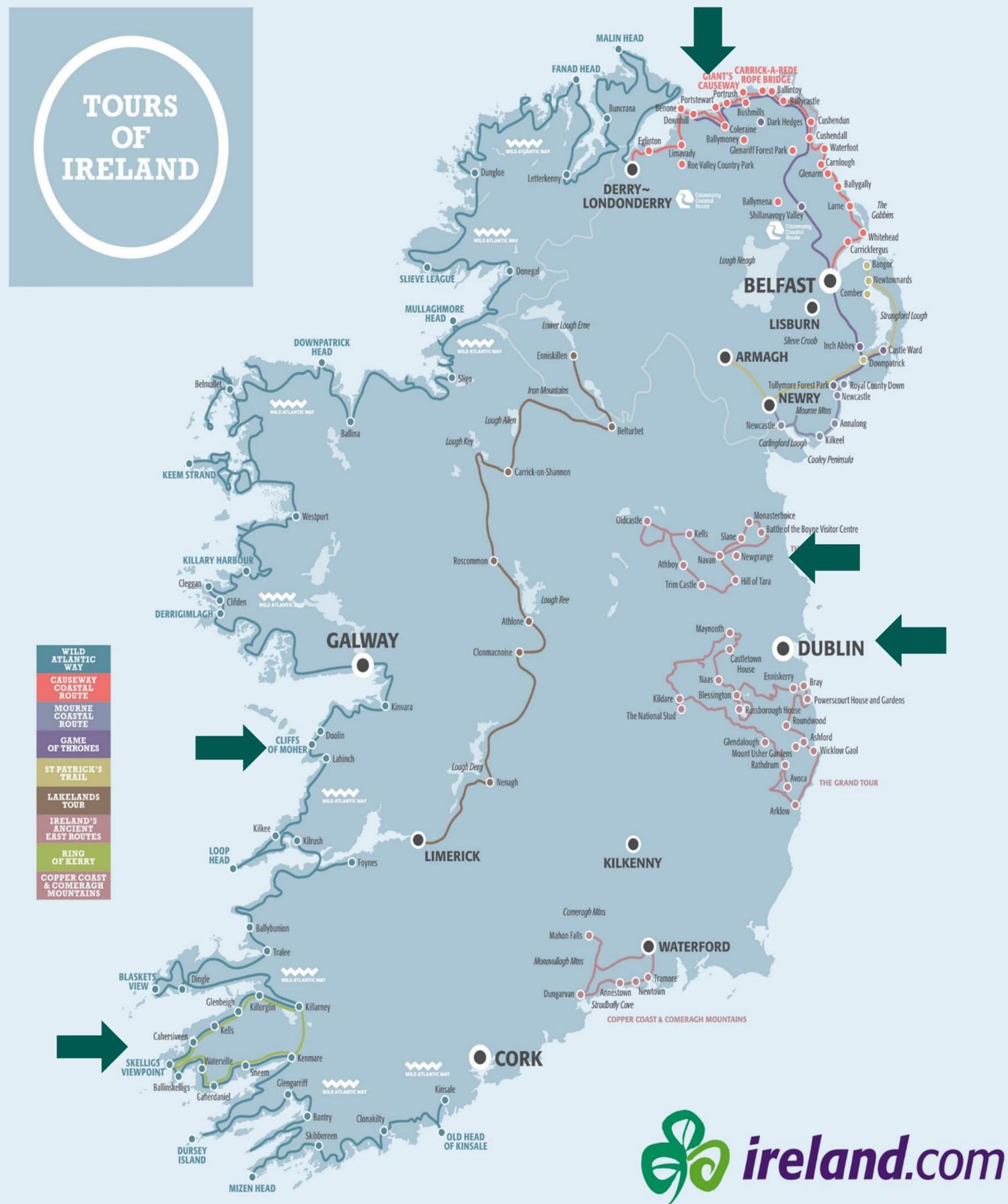
Embassy of Ireland in Berlin

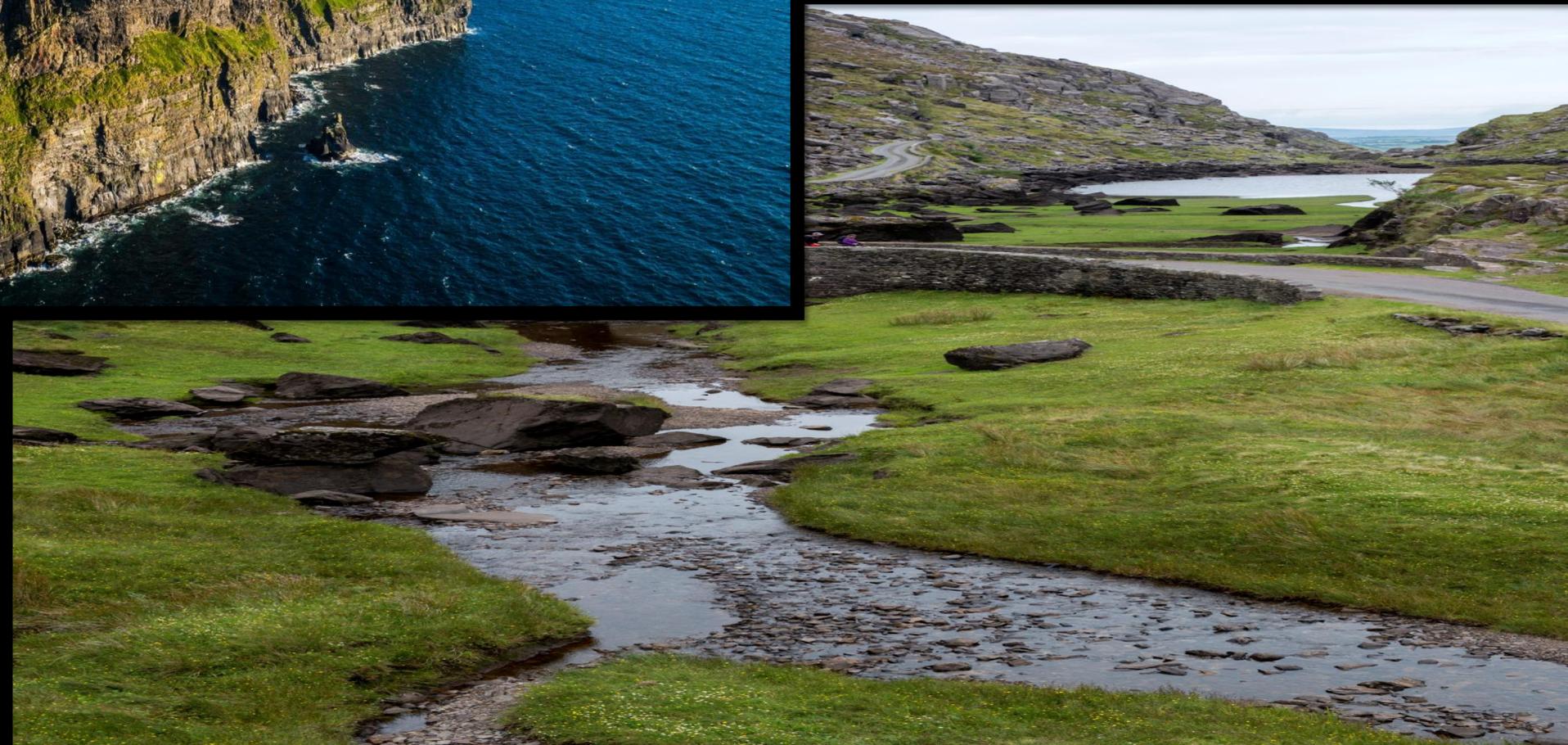
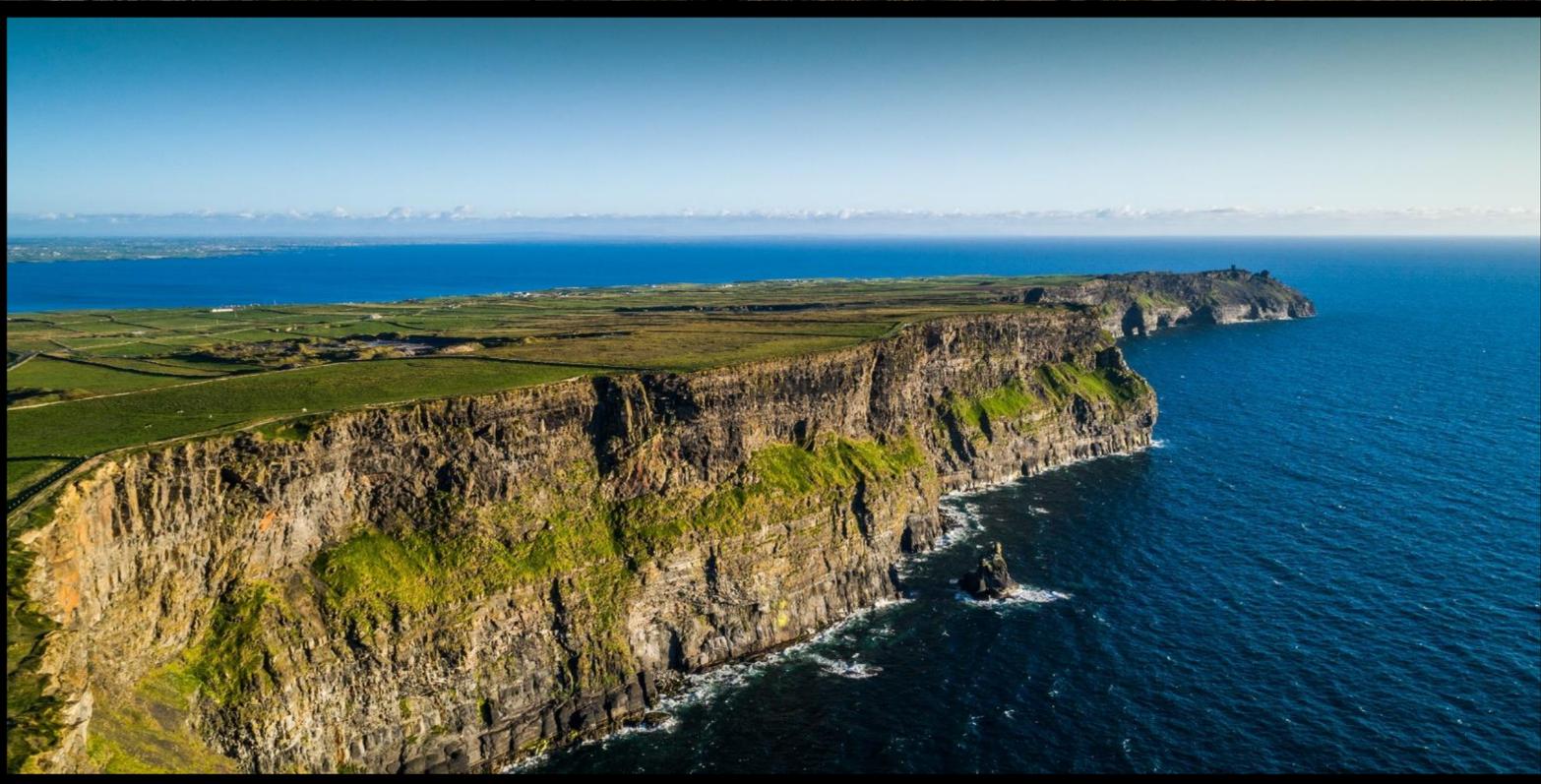
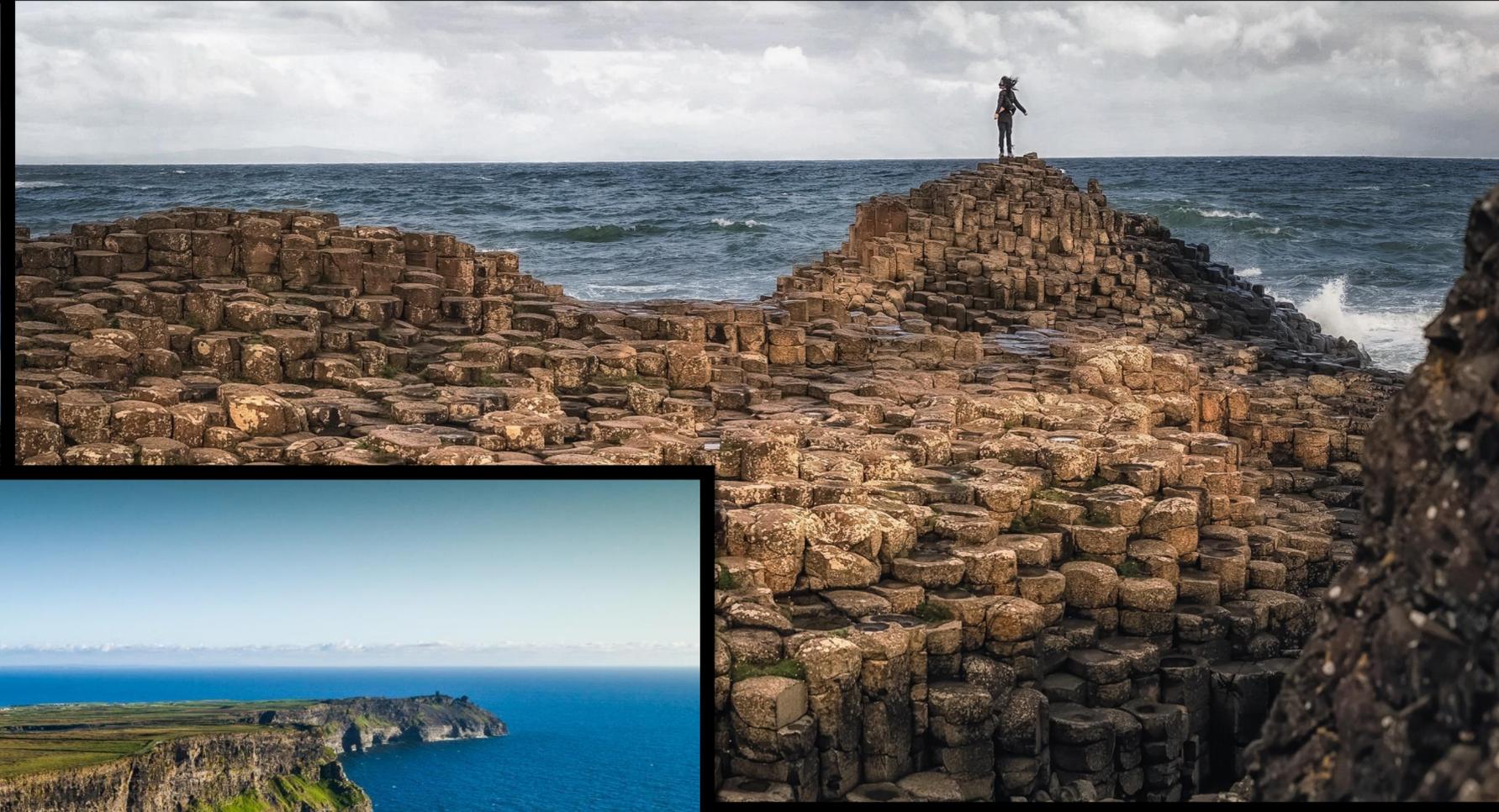
23 May 2023



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- **Geography:** 26 counties in Ireland, six counties in Northern Ireland
- **Population:** 5.15 million (2.82 in 1961), 1.9 million in Northern Ireland
- **Diversity:** 13.8% of the Irish population are non-Irish nationals
- **Capital city:** Dublin
- **Famous landmarks:** Cliffs of Moher, Newgrange, the Ring of Kerry, Trinity College, the Book of Kells, the Giant's Causeway and Carrantuohill
- **Official languages:** English & Irish (Gaeilge)







Irish Foreign Policy before Independence

Brief History of the Irish Economy: Pre-EU Membership



- **1920s:** unindustrialised, agricultural economy
- **1930s – 1950s:** protectionist trade policy, home grown industry import substitution
- **1950s:** shift to importing industrialisation
- **1960s – early 1970s:** boom driven by labour intensive FDI
- **Late 1970s – early 1980s:** global recession (oil crises)

Outward looking at the Outset



- Awareness of Importance of Foreign Relations
- ‘Message to the Free Nations of the World’ – Dáil Éireann
- Attendance at Versailles inspired by calls by Wilson for Self-Determination
- Set up propaganda offices in other locations
- Nancy Wyse Power in Berlin set up an Irish Bulletin.

The Treaty



- War of Independence was fought to a standstill
- Treaty signed on 6 December 1921 established the Irish Free State
- Recognised monarch as Head of State
- Restrictions on Irish military
- Partition
- Civil War

Treaty Debate



This Treaty brings the freedom that is necessary, it brings the freedom that we all were ready to die for, that is, that Ireland be allowed to develop her own life in her own way, without any interference from any other Government whether English or otherwise.'

- Michael Collins



League of Nations



- Joined September 1923
- Key plank of foreign Policy – more than just relations with Britain
- Broadening of engagement – over 50 states in Geneva
- Mark of confidence and optimism
- Support for codification of International Law
- Engagement with key issues of the time esp 1930-1935
- Failure of the Council and withdrawal of Irish engagement

Eamon de Valera – Ireland as a Small State



‘All the small states can do, if the statesmen of the greater states fail in their duty, is resolutely to determine that they will not become tools of any greater power, and that they will resist with whatever strength they may possess every attempt to force them into a war against their will.’



Widening of Diplomatic Network



- Expansion of diplomatic network
- Washington, London Geneva in early 1920s
- Opened Diplomatic relations with Germany in 1929 along with Vatican and Paris



Relations with Britain



- 1920s - Reluctant member of the Commonwealth – efforts to reform
- 1930s - De Valera brought new assertive approach on entry to office in 1932
 - *Removal of Oath*
 - *Return of Ports*
 - *New Constitution in 1937 – ‘National territory’*



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The Emergency

Ireland and the Second World War

World War II – The Emergency



- Role of a small state during World War
- Impact on independence?
- Neutrality
- Churchill Criticism
- Looking forward
 - *Contribution to relief programme*
 - *Establishment of United Nations*
 - *Integration or isolation*



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Post War

Integration or Isolation

Declaration of a Republic



- Member of the Commonwealth between 1922 and 1949
- John A. Costello announcement in Canada, September 1948
- Official name of Ireland
- UK Ireland Act 1949

NATO Membership?

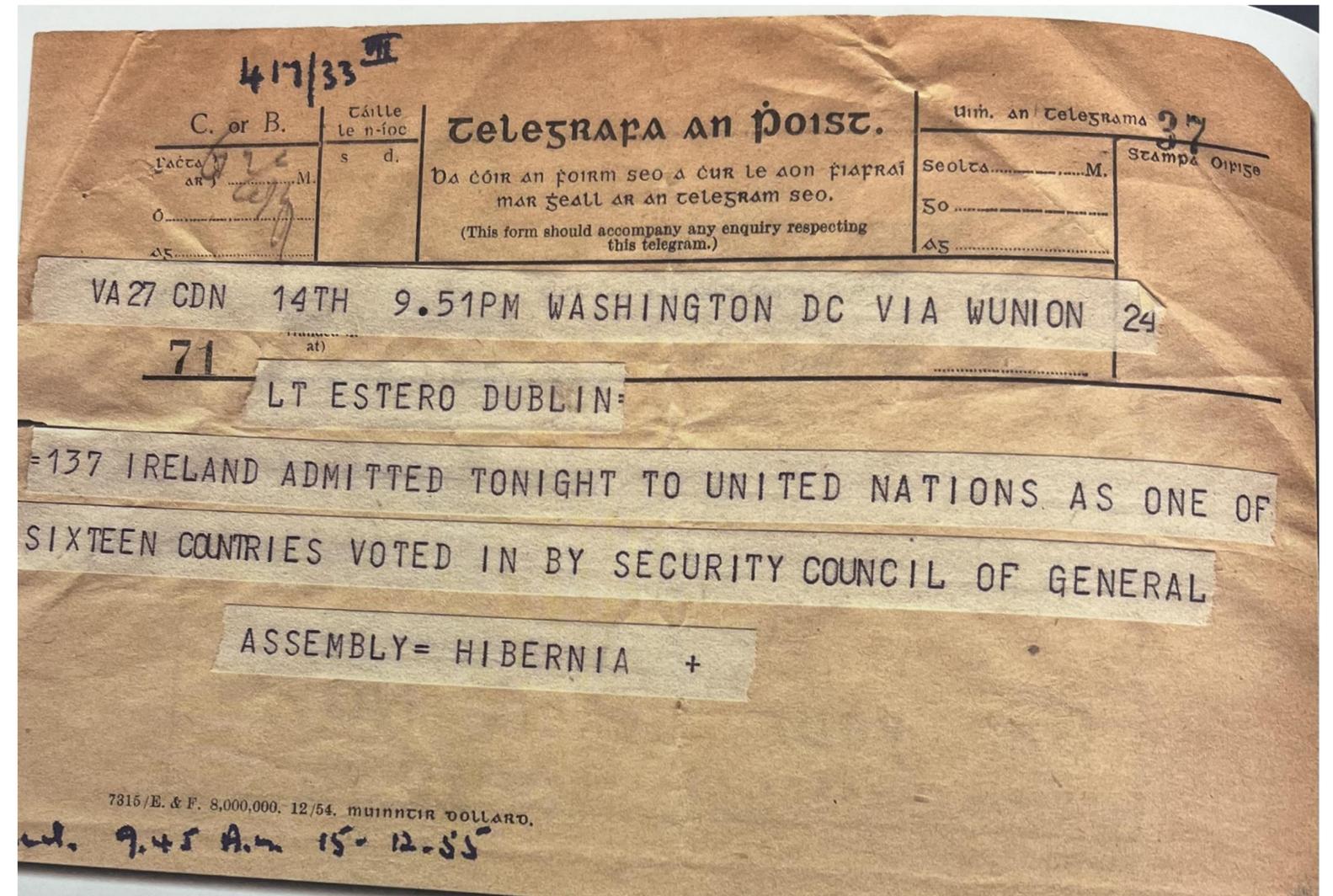


- Neutrality
- Acceptance of partition?
- Outreach to the United States

Membership of the UN – Independent Minded Foreign Policy 1960s



- Applied in 1946, admitted 1955
- Support for UN Charter
 - *China Vote*
 - *Non-Proliferation*
 - *Decolonisation*
 - *Peacekeeping*





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Membership of the European Union

Economic Challenges before European Union



- Ireland missed the Wirtschaftswunder
- Protectionism until the mid-1950s
- TK Whitaker:

In the political field the primary national objective is the re-unification of the country. Until that is achieved, however, and no doubt after it has been achieved, the principal economic problem of the Irish government will continue to be the safeguarding of political independence by ensuring economic vitality. Without a sound and progressive economy, political independence would be a crumbling façade (1957)

Joining European Economic Community



- EEC membership applications in 1961 & 1967
- 1972 – Treaty of Accession signed & endorsed by 83% in referendum
- 1 January 1973 Ireland becomes EEC member

Brief History of the Irish Economy: EU Membership



- **1973:** EEC membership (structural and cohesion funds, CAP)
- **Late 1980s and 1990s:** “jobless growth”
- **1993:** completion of the single market
- **Mid-1990s:**
 - *renewed emphasis on indigenous enterprise*
 - *focus on attracting high-tech and R&D FDI*
- **1994 – 2007:** unprecedented boom
 - *Mid 1990s-2000: Celtic Tiger (double digit growth rates)*
 - *2000-2007: domestic driven growth*
- **1999/2001:** introduction of the Euro, EU monetary policy

Brief History of the Irish Economy: EU Membership ctnd.

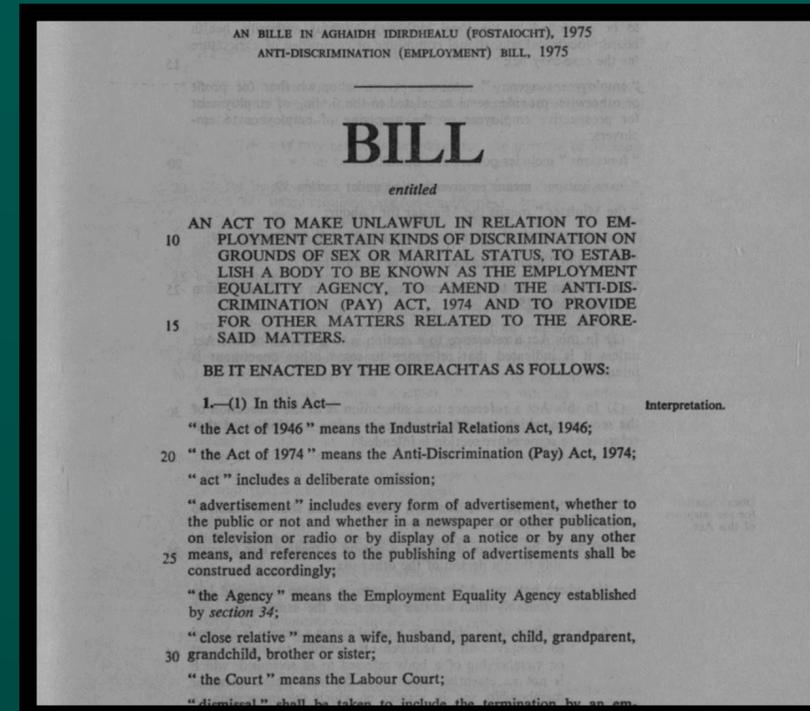


- **2010: global financial crisis** – Troika bailout “Programme”
- **Dec 2013:** exited bailout, return to funding through financial markets
- **2014 – 2019:** economic rebound
- **2020 – 2023:** shocks of Brexit, Covid-19, Russian war of aggression in Ukraine

Social and cultural



- Opportunities to work, live and study in any EU country
- ERASMUS Programme - 50,000 Irish students
- 1 January 2022 – Irish/Gaeilge became an official EU language
- Advanced diversity and gender equality
- Ireland's voice on the world stage





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Northern Ireland and the Troubles

Northern Ireland



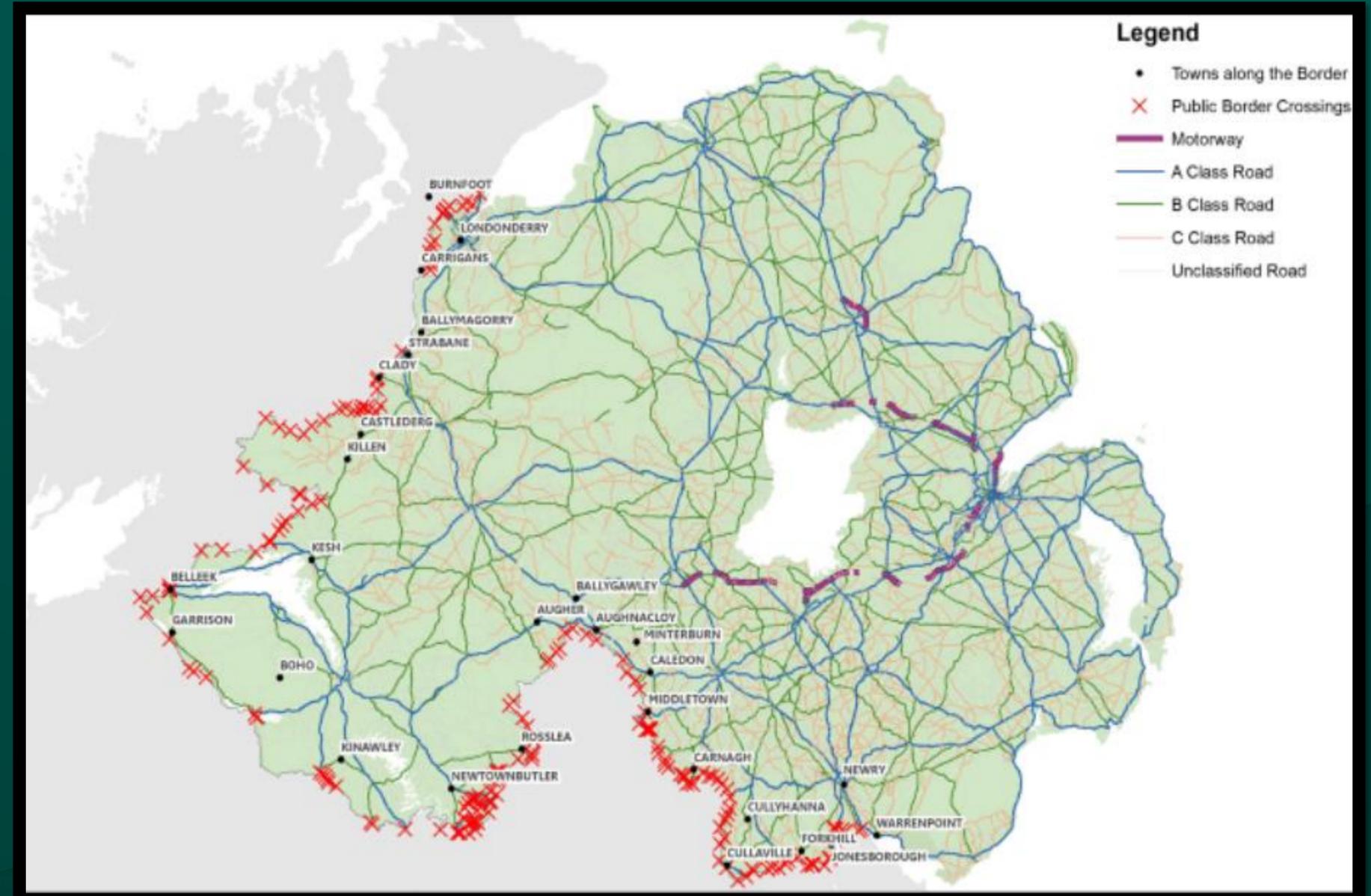
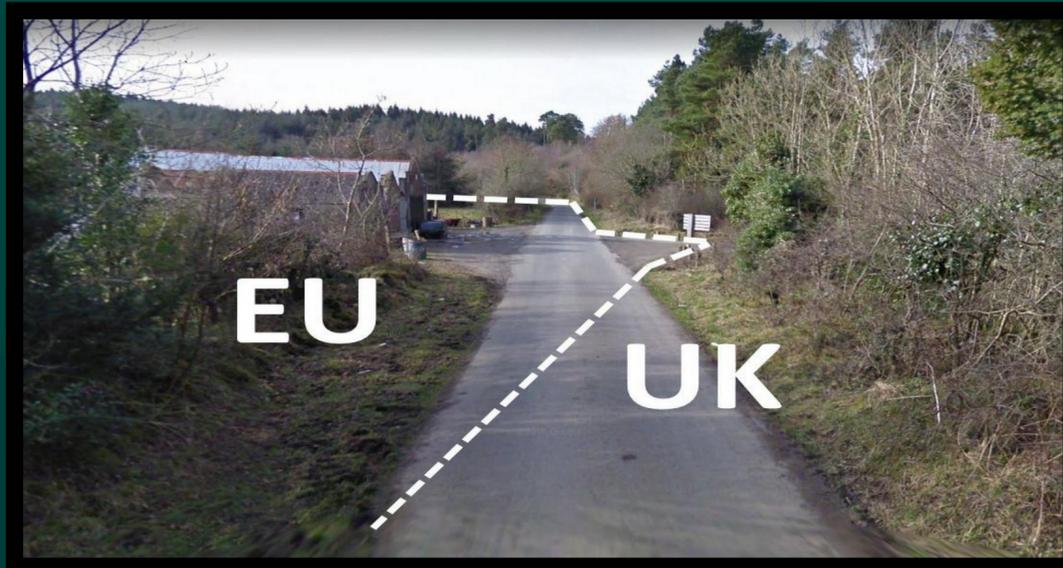
- Outbreak of the Troubles in 1969
- Sunningdale
- Anglo-Irish Agreement
- Downing Street Declaration
- Good Friday Agreement

Europe and the Northern Ireland Peace Process



- Joint membership of EU normalised relations
- Positive Impact of Single Market
- Good Friday Agreement
- Europe as a peace project
- Brexit...

Good Friday Agreement and the role of the EU





The Economic and Political Impact of Brexit

Brexit - Warnings



- Taoiseach Kenny warnings
- Ministers visit NI and GB
- Contingency Planning

Brexit - Response



Brexit - Response



- NI Result
- Ireland remain in EU
- Four priorities for EU-UK negotiations
- Domestic preparations

Brexit Support Measures for Businesses



- Mainly affects domestic companies (food & beverage) which provide high employment
- Implementation of the Brexit Loan Support Scheme through the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland

The advertisement features a white background with a light grey grid pattern. At the top left is the SBCI logo, consisting of the letters 'SBCI' in white on a dark green rectangular background. To the right of the logo is the tagline 'Here to build business.' in green, followed by 'Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland' in a smaller black font. The central focus is the text 'BREXIT LOAN SCHEME' in large, bold, dark green capital letters, slanted upwards to the right. Below this text is a thick green horizontal bar. At the bottom left, there is a green rounded rectangular button with the text 'APPLY NOW' in white. At the bottom right, there is a small golden harp logo followed by the text 'Rialtas na hÉireann' and 'Government of Ireland' in black.

Brexit and Trade between the UK and Ireland



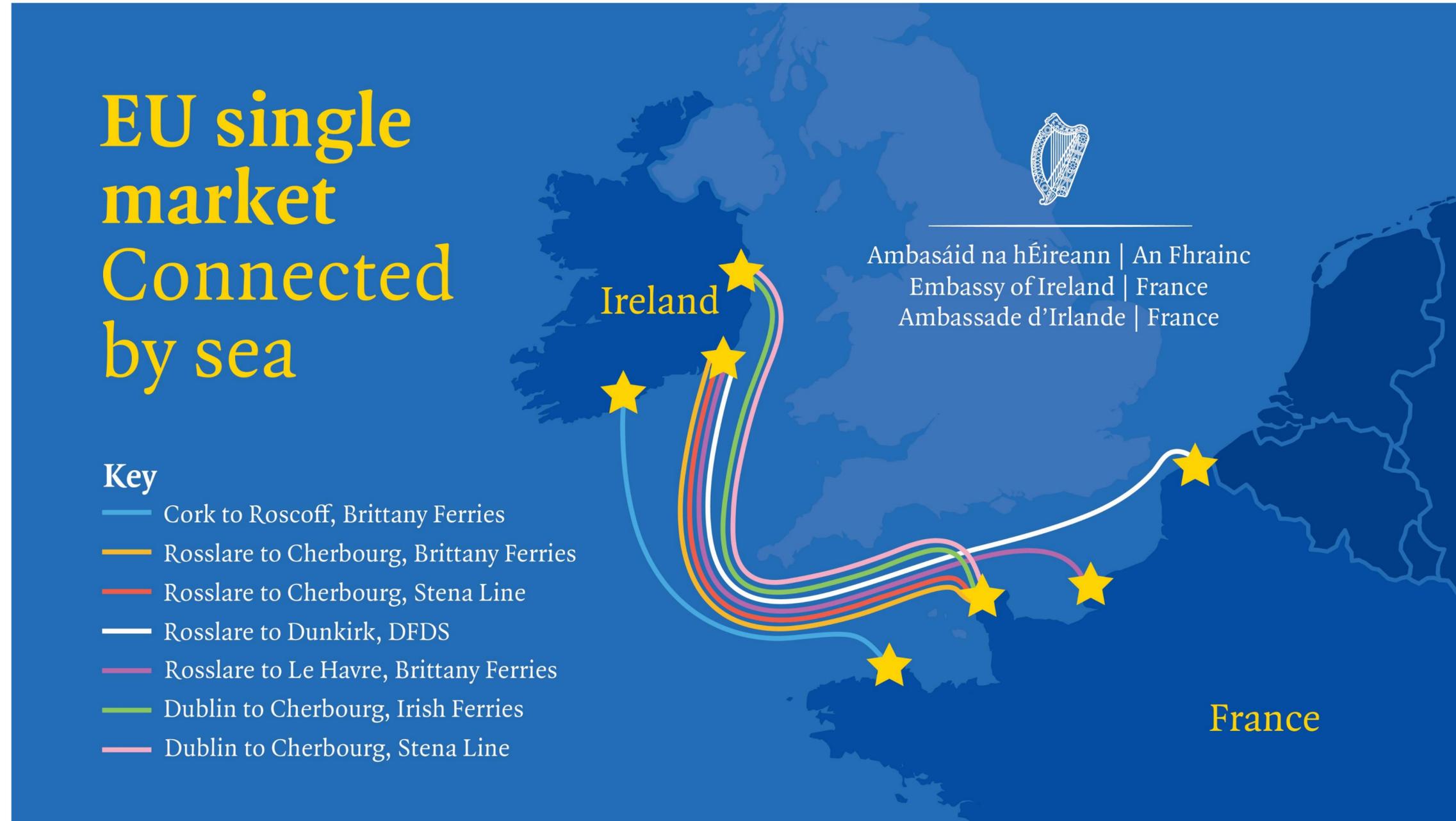
- Delay in the implementation of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)
- Significant fall in Irish imports from the UK (increased imports from Northern Ireland)
- Irish exports not affected in the same manner – UK share of exports decreasing pre-Brexit

Economic Impact of Brexit



- Brexit will ultimately have a negative economic effect on the Irish economy – a slow rather than fast moving shock
- Irish GDP expected to be 2 – 3 per cent lower compared to a “no-Brexit” scenario

Ireland's Connection to the Single Market



Brexit – Unexpected Consequences



Irish Passport Applications

2014

- NI & GB – 91,924

2017

- NI & GB - 162,251

2022

- NI – 125k
- GB – 111k
- Total : 136k

Great Britain Applications				
Month of Application	Total Applications 2015	Total Applications 2016	Difference	% Change
January	3,196	3,831	635	19.87%
February	4,479	5,261	782	17.46%
March	5,041	4,632	-409	-8.11%
April	4,628	5,709	1,081	23.36%
May	4,865	5,767	902	18.54%
June	4,747	5,167	420	8.85%
July	4,241	6,211	1,970	46.45%
August	3,257	5,505	2,248	69.02%
September	3,430	6,483	3,053	89.01%
October	3,140	5,978	2,838	90.38%
November	3,133	6,443	3,310	105.65%
December	2,085	4,009	1,924	92.28%
Totals :	46,242	64,996	18,754	40.56%



Political and Economic Outlook

Global Ireland



- Doubling Ireland's global footprint
- [Taoiseach launches Global Ireland: Ireland 2025 – YouTube](#)



Gender Parity in DFA



In 2023, 52% of Ireland's diplomatic missions will be headed by women.

For the first time, over half of Ireland's missions around the world will be led by women.



Irish/German Relations

- Strong Political, economic and People-to-People relations
- Doubling of trade
- CGs in Frankfurt and Munich



Looking Forward



- Security
- Unity?
- Energy



Ireland's Renewable Energy Potential and Energy Security



- All-island electricity market
- 4/5 of Ireland's natural gas imported from the UK
- Ireland's maritime area is seven times the size of its landmass – one of the largest marine areas in the EU
- Significant offshore wind energy production potential – target of at least 7GW of offshore wind by 2030





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Thank you for your attention.

Questions welcome!



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