



# NO TO EU ARMY

## REFERENDUM ON NEUTRALITY NOW!

A CHARA,

For 20 years now successive Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael governments have eroded Ireland's neutrality and there is no doubt that an EU army is already taking shape.

Sinn Féin believes in positive neutrality. We oppose Irish membership of any military alliance. That is why we voted against Irish participation in PESCO and the European Defence Action Plan. That is why Sinn Féin has brought forward legislation to enshrine neutrality in the Irish constitution. That is why we support Ireland's long and honourable history of supporting United Nations peacekeeping.

We need a strong representation in the European Parliament. Sinn Féin MEPs will be your watchdogs in Europe and will fight to protect Irish neutrality.

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LYNN BOYLAN MEP

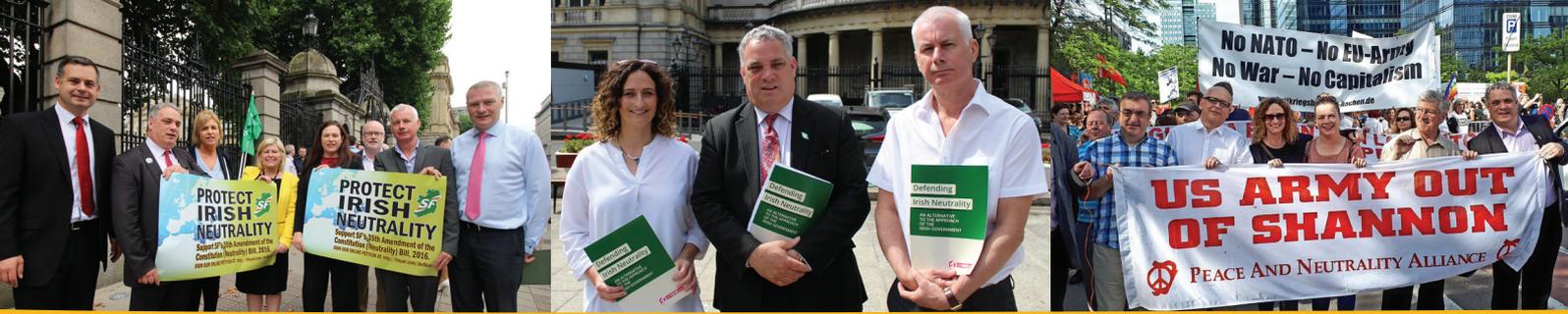
Alongside our TDs in Leinster House, Sinn Féin MEPs are campaigning for:

- ▶ A referendum to enshrine neutrality in the Irish Constitution.
- ▶ A specific protocol attached to the EU Treaties on Irish neutrality similar to that secured by Denmark.
- ▶ An end to plans for an EU Army and an end to Ireland's participation in the EU Battle Groups and NATO's Partnership for Peace;
- ▶ An Irish withdrawal from the EU's permanent military structured cooperation (PESCO)
- ▶ An end to the transporting of US soldiers and military equipment through Shannon Airport.
- ▶ An enhanced relationship with the UN and actively promoting UN reform so that it is capable of fulfilling the promise of the Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and of upholding international law;



#neutralityref

LYNN BOYLAN MEP



## SINN FÉIN'S SUPPORT OF IRISH NEUTRALITY

- ▶ Sinn Féin tabled legislation to hold a referendum on enshrining neutrality in the Irish Constitution. Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael voted it down.
- ▶ During the Lisbon Treaty debate Sinn Féin pointed out that ratification of the treaty would facilitate the creation of an EU army.
- ▶ Sinn Féin voted against Irish participation in PESCO and the European Defence Action Plan, something supported by Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael
- ▶ Our MEPs have consistently highlight the ever creeping approach to increased militarisation of the EU both here and in the EU institutions.

## HOW FIANNA FÁIL AND FINE GAEL ARE ABANDONING IRISH NEUTRALITY

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- ▶ In 1997 Fianna Fáil signed up to NATO's Partnership for Peace.
  - ▶ Since 2002 Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael governments have allowed more than 3 million US troops through Shannon Airport – a clear breach of our neutrality.
  - ▶ In Dec 2017 Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil voted for Ireland's participation in PESCO - The stated aim of PESCO is "to jointly develop defence capabilities and make them available for EU military operations."
  - ▶ In December 2017 the Fine Gael MEPs voted in favour of an EU wide commitment to spending 2% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defence. The EU is also proposing a defence fund of €13 billion, while at the same time cutting Agricultural funding by 15% and Rural Development funding by 10%.
  - ▶ In March 2018 FG's MEPs called for Ireland to abandon our long held neutrality by ending the Triple Lock which would give the government the power to deploy Irish troops as part of military missions which do not have UN approval.
  - ▶ In April 2019 Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael once again voted against legislation to enshrine neutrality in the Constitution.

## EU ARMY ALREADY TAKING SHAPE



In November 2018, French President Emmanuel Macron called for the creation of a "true European army" which he said would protect the interests of the EU bloc.

German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen claimed that a European army is "already taking shape",

In September 2017, the President of the EU Commission, Jean Claude Juncker, clearly stated that by 2025 there would be a functioning European Defence Union.