Anti-War & Anti-Military Expansionism

Authors:
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Anti-War & Anti-Military Expansionism

International Affairs Committee

Comhdháil Notes

That Ireland is proud of its stance as a neutral country throughout history.

Comhdháil further Notes

A poll carried out by the Business Post published on March 26th 2022 indicated that 48% of Irish people are in favour of Ireland joining NATO, 59% said they wanted Ireland “to significantly increase” military spending, and 46% said they would support “a referendum for Irish troops to serve in a potential future European army.”

Comhdháil Believes

That if AMLÉ formally adopts these positions, the Irish Student Movement (Local and National) will be able to effectively mobilise and stand in solidarity against current and future crises such as these, unified as one under the AMLÉ.

Comhdháil Therefore Mandates

AMLÉ to adopt the following:

- Anti-War and anti-Military Expansionism position.
- Opposing the joining of NATO
- Opposing the increase in military spending
- To take a no stance if a referendum for Irish troops to serve in a potential future European army is run

Comhdháil Further Mandates

The Coiste Gnó, at their discretion, to support and work with organisations that are campaigning and lobbying in line with the above stances in Ireland.

Comhdháil Therefore Appeals the motions: 2022 IA 2 and 2022 EM (IA) 9

Irish Neutrality

Authors:
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Keywords: anti war, irish neutrality

Irish Neutrality

Proposed by the Vice President for the Southern Region

Comhdháil Welcomes:

Ireland's long-standing history as a neutral country in international conflicts such as World War II and the Cold War, its contribution to global peace, and commitments to deploying Irish military troops abroad on primarily peacekeeping missions.

Comhdháil Notes:

That Irish neutrality is currently constitutionally enshrined in Article 29, section 4, subsection 9° of the Irish Constitution, which ensures that Ireland cannot join a common defence system (e.g., a European army), without a referendum.

The primary instrument through which Irish neutrality is protected is the so-called "triple lock", enshrined through the Defence Act 1954, whereby Irish troop deployments require authorisation by:

1. A UN Security Council resolution or UN General Assembly resolution
2. A formal decision by the Irish government
3. Approval by a resolution of Dáil Éireann (the lower house of the Oireachtas or parliament, to which the government is responsible).

Comhdháil Further Notes:

Recent efforts by the Irish government to reform the triple lock, by proposing to remove the requirement for a UN Security Council/UN General Assembly authorisation, and increasing the number of Irish troops that can be deployed abroad on military operations. The primary argument in favour of this by the Irish government, is that the triple lock as it currently

stands could create a situation where a member of the UN Security Council could veto Irish troop deployments on peacekeeping missions, for instance, Russia vetoing a deployment to Ukraine. While it is true that the UN Security Council has primary responsibility for all peacekeeping deployments, it is possible for the UN General Assembly to authorise peacekeeping deployments through the "Uniting for Peace" resolution, in the event of a deadlocked Security Council.

Comhdháil Notes with Concern:

That while this proposed amendment to the triple lock is intended to give Ireland further autonomy when it comes to deploying Irish troops abroad on peacekeeping/humanitarian aid missions, it could create a precedent where the Irish government has the ability to send Irish troops on offensive missions with international organisations such as NATO. This is a direct threat to Irelands ability to maintain neutral, in a time of increasing global conflict and instability, where Ireland can and should be a leading voice in brokering for peace on an international scale.

Comhdháil However Recognises:

That while a triple lock mechanism is important in ensuring that Irish troops are only deployed on peacekeeping missions, having the United Nations be one of the deciding parties of this authorisation undermines Ireland's sovereignty and does not take into account the voice of Irish citizens.

Comhdháil Therefore Mandates:

USI/AMLÉ to adopt a pro-Irish Neutrality stance, and the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship to lobby the Irish government, in particular the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Defence to:

1. Call for an ordinary referendum on the question of the proposed changes to the triple lock.
2. Enshrine Irish neutrality in the Constitution of Ireland through a constitutional referendum.
3. Directly involve Irish citizens in decisions surrounding Irish troop deployments and the joining of any future "European army" through citizen's assemblies or alternative mechanisms.

USI/AMLÉ should seek to collaborate with existing campaigns in this area, such as those ran by the Peace and Neutrality Alliance, the Irish Neutrality League and World BEYOND War to accomplish these lobbying goals.

ESU Membership

Authors:
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Keywords: ESU, European Students' Union, international

ESU Membership

USI/AMLÉ Vice President for the Border, Midlands, & Western Region

COMHDHÁIL NOTES:

That USI/AMLÉ is longstanding member of the European Students' Union (ESU), Europe's representative body for student unions.

COMHDHÁIL FURTHER NOTES:

ESU has a diverse membership and is not always able to support students and their interests equitably across the continent. USI/AMLÉ's membership in ESU is voluntary and contingent upon its interests being supported by ESU.

COMHDHÁIL BELIEVES:

Like all democratic organisations, ESU is imperfect and prone to errors.

THEREFORE, COMHDHÁIL MANDATES:

That the President and designated International Affairs representative review the governing documents & policy positions of ESU annually, providing a summary audit for the Coiste to evaluate significant misalignments and threats.

COMHDHÁIL FURTHER MANDATES:

The President & International Affairs representative inform Comhairle Náisiúnta of any instances in which ESU flouts its own governing documents & positions, regardless of the results of the above audit. Such (in)actions will be used to evaluate USI/AMLÉ's continuing membership in ESU. Any improprieties in ESU, explicit or tacit, shall be considered in the

context of USI/AMLÉ's stated positions and mandates.

COMHDHÁIL LASTLY MANDATES:

The President & International Affairs representative must present a report on the events transpiring at ESU Board Meetings and Student Conventions no later than two (2) Comhairlí Náisiúnta after the conclusion of these events.

References:
History of ESU
ESU Policies