

**From:** Hyland Sonja HQ-POLITICAL  
**Sent:** Tuesday 30 March 2021 17:06  
**To:** Sec Gen PSSG <[PSSG@dfa.ie](mailto:PSSG@dfa.ie)>  
**Subject:** FW: Background Note- Special Envoy or Ambassadors for Human Rights in the EU and Likeminded

Patrick

Grateful if you could bring this to the attention of the PD. I will send him some thoughts on a possible role for an Irish Envoy in the broad human rights space in the coming days but he may also wish to see this overview of EU Human Rights Envoys and their various areas of focus

Regards

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**From:** Cunningham Gerry HQ-POLITICAL <[Gerry.Cunningham@dfa.ie](mailto:Gerry.Cunningham@dfa.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday 29 March 2021 16:29  
**To:** #HQ-POL Directors Office <[POL.DirectorsOffice@dfa.ie](mailto:POL.DirectorsOffice@dfa.ie)>  
**Cc:** #HQ-POL Human Rights <[POL.HumanRights@dfa.ie](mailto:POL.HumanRights@dfa.ie)>  
**Subject:** Background Note- Special Envoy or Ambassadors for Human Rights in the EU and Likeminded

PD

With thanks to Catherine for preparing, please find attached a background note briefly summarising the current status of Human Rights Ambassadors in ten EU MS, as well as in the UK and US.

- The majority adopt an overall “Ambassador at Large” approach.

- Additional special responsibilities are common e.g. Media/online freedom (EE, FI, NL ); Religion freedom/holocaust (EE; SE) Democracy/RoL (FI, LT, ES); HRDs (FR, LU); LGBTI (IT); B&HR (IT, LU); Gender (LT, NL).
- The Ambassadors from FR; NL; DE; SE all seem to attach a high priority (perhaps with greater authority) to maintaining a close dialogue with wider civil society; mainstreaming human rights across foreign policy; and representation in relevant multilateral fora at HRC/UPR or on specific topics at HRC/UPR; EU/CoE/OSCE fora etc
- Only one appears to be a career diplomat (IT)
- A few countries have additional “special envoys” (Religion - NL, UK). The US does not appear to have an “Ambassador at Large” but has “Special Envoys” on LGBTI, Religious Freedom, and on Gender Equality.
- Apart from the issue of mandates; reporting; and resources, the level of interaction at EU level is noteworthy (several meetings per year and some 5-6 statements in the last month alone.

We are happy to follow up in due course in relation to any queries

Regards

Gerry