



TREATY SERIES 2001
Nº 5

**Security Agreement between Ireland
and the Western European Union**

Done at Brussels on 10 November 1998

Entered into force on 10 December 1998

Presented to Dáil Éireann by the Minister for Foreign Affairs

SECURITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRELAND AND THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

Ireland and Western European Union (WEU), hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”

- considering the Declaration following the Extraordinary Meeting of the WEU Council of Ministers with States of Central Europe in Bonn on 19 June 1992,
- considering the Kirchberg Declaration by the WEU Council of Ministers on 9 May 1994,
- considering the decisions taken by the WEU Council of Ministers at Noordwijk on 14 November 1994,
- considering that effective cooperation entails the exchange between the Parties of classified information and material,
- having agreed to consultation within the framework of relations and cooperation set out in the Petersberg Declaration by the WEU Council of Ministers on 19 June 1992 for humanitarian-type missions, peacekeeping missions and crisis management operations,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article 1

The Parties shall:

1. protect and safeguard the classified information and material provided by either Party or that may be provided or produced under this Agreement,
2. maintain the security classification established by the other Party with respect to information and material originating from that Party and safeguard such information and material accordingly,
3. not use such information and material for purposes other than those established by the originator and those for which the information is exchanged,
4. not disclose such information and material to third parties without the consent of the originating authority.

Article 2

Pursuant to Article 1 of this Agreement, Ireland shall designate a national security authority and a security organization and establish programmes, founded on the basic principles and minimum standards of security as defined in the WEU Security Regulations, which shall be implemented in the security systems of the Parties to ensure that a common standard of protection is applied. Moreover, Ireland is prepared to apply the WEU Security Regulations for the protection of WEU classified information.

Article 3

1. The Parties shall ensure that all persons under their authority who, in the conduct of their official duties, require or may have access to classified information or material exchanged under this Agreement have been investigated, appropriately security-cleared and thoroughly briefed on their security responsibilities before they are granted access to such information and material.
2. The security clearance procedures shall be designed to determine whether an individual can, taking into account his or her loyalty and trustworthiness, have access to classified information without this constituting a security risk, as defined in the WEU Security Regulations.

Article 4

The Parties shall provide mutual assistance with regard to security matters of common interest, arising within the framework of this Agreement.

Article 5

1. The Government of Ireland shall ensure that the relevant provisions of this Agreement are applied by Ireland. The WEU Council shall ensure that the relevant provisions of this Agreement are applied by WEU.
2. Under the direction and on behalf of the WEU Council the Secretary-General of the WEU is responsible for security arrangements for the protection of classified information and material exchanged under this Agreement.
3. On behalf of the Government of Ireland, the National Security Authority of Ireland is responsible for security arrangements for the protection of classified information and material exchanged under this Agreement.
4. Reciprocal arrangements shall be worked out between Ireland and WEU to define:
 - the security standards applied by the Parties for the protection, in conformity with the WEU classification levels established in accordance with WEU criteria, of the classified information to be exchanged;
 - and the liaison between Ireland and WEU.
5. The WEU Security Bureau is authorised to carry out a periodic assessment of the effectiveness of the measures for the protection of the WEU classified information released to Ireland.

Article 6

This Agreement shall in no way prevent the Parties from entering into bilateral agreements with other States or organisations for the same purpose. Existing bilateral agreements shall remain unaffected.

Article 7

1. The Parties shall express their respective consent to being bound by this Agreement by signature by an authority duly mandated by the Government of Ireland and by an Authority duly mandated by the WEU Council.
2. This Agreement shall enter into force thirty days after the date of signature.

Article 8

This Agreement may be denounced by any Party on giving the other Party written notice thereof. The notice shall take effect six months after its receipt by the other Party, but shall not affect obligations already contracted under the provisions of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized thereto by the Government of Ireland and by the WEU Council respectively, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Brussels, this tenth day of November 1998, in two copies in the English and French languages, each text being equally authoritative, which shall be deposited with the two Parties.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF IRELAND**

Eamon Ryan
Ambassador

FOR THE WEU COUNCIL

José Cutileiro
Secretary-General