



23 June 2026

Informal Meeting of Environment Ministers

Dear Colleague,

Is mór an pléisiúr dom cuireadh a thabhairt duit freastal ar Chruinniú Neamhfhoirmiúil na nAirí Comhshaoil, a bheidh ar siúl i mBaile Átha Cliath, Éire, an 23 agus an 24 Iúil 2026 mar chuid d'Uachtaránacht na hÉireann ar Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh.

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to attend the *Informal Meeting of Environment Ministers*, which will take place at Dublin Castle, on 23–24 July 2026 as part of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Ireland assumes the Presidency at a critical moment for the future of our Union. Against a backdrop of profound geopolitical, economic and environmental change, Europe is advancing an ambitious agenda to strengthen its competitiveness, enhance its security and uphold the values that define our Union. Many of the key priorities identified under the "One Europe, One Market" agenda will require significant progress in the months ahead, and I look forward to working closely with you to advance these important discussions.

As we begin our Presidency, I would also like to acknowledge the extraordinary work of Cyprus over the past six months. The Cyprus Presidency has guided the Council through a challenging period with skill, professionalism and determination. Their strong finish provides a platform for our own work and ensures that Ireland's Presidency begins with momentum on many important files.

The informal meeting in Dublin will provide an opportunity for us to engage in open and strategic discussions on some of the most important challenges and opportunities facing Europe today.



Our agenda (attached below) will focus on three themes, each of which reflects Ireland's overarching Presidency priorities of competitiveness, security and values.

Our first session, **Decarbonisation and Competitiveness**, will explore the role of decarbonisation as a central pillar of Europe's industrial strategy. As the Union looks towards the next phase of its climate and industrial policy framework, Ministers will have an opportunity to reflect on how climate action, innovation, electrification and industrial competitiveness can be advanced together to strengthen Europe's economic resilience, strategic autonomy and long-term prosperity. The discussion will consider how Europe can maintain an ambitious trajectory towards climate neutrality while supporting investment, innovation and the transformation of energy-intensive sectors in an increasingly competitive global environment. Particular attention will be given to the role of policy frameworks in providing long-term certainty for industry, accelerating clean technology deployment and ensuring that decarbonisation remains a source of competitive advantage for the European economy.

Over lunch, Ministers will have the opportunity for a more informal and private exchange on **Europe's Global Environmental Leadership and Partnerships**. This discussion will focus on preparations for COP31 under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, while also considering how these efforts can reinforce preparations for COP17 under the Convention on Biological Diversity. At a time of increasing geopolitical uncertainty, we believe Europe has a vital role to play in sustaining international cooperation, strengthening partnerships and maintaining ambition across both climate and biodiversity agendas. During this session, we will continue our preparations for COP31, building on the excellent work undertaken by the Cyprus Presidency in helping to identify the European Union's key priorities. Discussions at the informal meeting in Nicosia in February and at the lunch debate during our March Environment Council suggested a strong appetite among Ministers to consider how the Union can engage more strategically and effectively in the lead-up to COP31.



Ministers will therefore be invited to reflect not only on our substantive priorities, but also on how we can develop a sharper, more focused mandate and strengthen the processes and partnerships that underpin Europe's global environmental leadership.

Our final session, **Circularity and Resilience**, will focus on the strategic role of circularity in strengthening Europe's resilience to external shocks. Recent geopolitical developments, including conflict in the Middle East, have once again highlighted vulnerabilities that extend far beyond energy alone, affecting food security, critical materials and global supply chains. We will consider how greater circularity can reduce these vulnerabilities, strengthen strategic autonomy, enhance competitiveness and support a more resilient European economy.

Taken together, these discussions will provide an opportunity to consider how Europe can build a future that is more competitive, more secure and more sustainable. They reflect a shared challenge facing all Member States: how to strengthen Europe's economy and resilience while remaining true to the values and environmental ambition that underpin our Union.

I am confident that Dublin will provide an excellent setting for thoughtful discussion and exchange among colleagues at this important moment for Europe. I very much look forward to welcoming you to Ireland and to working together over the course of the Presidency.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'D. O'Brien', written in a cursive style.

Darragh O'Brien, TD
Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment



Informal Meeting of Environment Ministers – Dublin Castle

Programme and Agenda

Thursday 23 July

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| 15:30 – 16:45 | Site Visit |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dublin Waste to Energy Facility
(Ministers/Heads of Delegations only)• Dublin Port Tolka Estuary Greenway
(remaining delegates) |

18:00 – 19:30	Welcome reception
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19:30 – 21:30	Gala dinner
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Friday 24 July

09:00 – 09:15	Family Photo
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09:30 – 11:30	Working Session I
	Decarbonisation and Competitiveness

11:45 – 12:05	Working Session II (a)
	Europe's Global Environmental Leadership and Partnerships

12:15 – 14:00	Working Session II (b)
	Europe's Global Environmental Leadership and Partnerships
	<i>cntd.</i>

14:00 – 15:30	Working Session III
	Circularity and Resilience

15:30 - 16:00	Press Conference
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