



Council of the
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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: La Hulpe Declaration on the Future of the European Pillar of Social Rights
- *Endorsement*
- Statement by Ireland

Delegations will find in the Annex a statement by Ireland in relation to the above-mentioned subject.

**Statement by Ireland on the Declaration by La Hulpe on
the future of the European Pillar of Social Rights**

Ireland is fully supportive of the European Pillar of Social Rights, which provides a comprehensive framework of 20 principles that guide EU and national policies in the areas of Equal opportunities and access to the labour market; Fair working conditions; and Social protection and inclusion.

Ireland is fully committed to strengthening implementation of the Pillar principles.

The Irish Constitution protects the right to freedom of association in Article 40.6.1°:

‘The state guarantees liberty for the exercise of the following rights, subject to public order and morality:

...

iii. the right of the citizens to form associations and unions. Laws, however, may be enacted for the regulation and control in the public interest of the exercise of the foregoing right.’

The system of industrial relations in Ireland is essentially voluntary in nature. There has been agreement on all sides that the terms and conditions of employment of workers is best determined by the process of voluntary collective bargaining between an employer or employers' association and one or more trade unions, without the intervention of the State.

The State's role in industrial relations has been largely confined to facilitating the collective bargaining process through establishing by legislation, institutions to assist in the resolution of disputes between employers and workers.