

'No hard Border on the island of Ireland, von der Leyen vows in historic Dail speech

EU Commission president lauds Ireland over support for Ukraine

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EUROPEAN Commission president Ursula von der Leyen says there can be "no hard Border on the island of Ireland" during her historic address to the Dail.

Ms von der Leyen said EU talks with Britain now had a "new, more pragmatic spirit" and said she believed practical issues with the Northern Ireland Protocol could be resolved.

She quoted a song by Galway band The Saw Doctors, saying that when the EU sits down with the British, they would do so with "an honest heart and an open mind".

"We are listening closely to business and civil society stakeholders in Northern Ireland but the consequences of Brexit and the kind of border chosen by the UK cannot be removed entirely," she said.

"If both sides are sensitive to this careful balance, a workable solution is within reach."

She said she was encouraged by talks with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. "Let me reassure you, Ireland can always count on the European Union to stand by the Good Friday Agreement. There can be no hard Border on the island of Ireland."

She said Ireland had gone "above and beyond" in its support for Ukraine.

Ms von der Leyen is on a two-day trip to Dublin, where she met Taoiseach Micheal Martin before addressing the Dail. The two leaders discussed the war on Ukraine, the energy crisis, green transition and the North-EU Ireland Protocol.

"This country knows what it means to struggle for the right to exist," Ms von der Leyen said in the Dail.

"Today, another European nation is fighting for its independence, while that may be said to the edge of our union."

"I do not feel like I have travelled to a better place. EU membership had made the most Irish people believe that 'proud Europeans' and that that Ireland was a country of support for Ukraine. She also told the joint sitting of the parliament and Seanad and beyond."

He told Ms von der Leyen, "Ireland has gone above and beyond" in its political support for Ukraine.

The event's target audience, according to the Commission, was 18- to 35-year-olds "who identify as neutral about the EU and are not particularly engaged in political issues".

Brussels unveiled the initial bemused chats with the department's metaverse. After EU and are not particularly engaged in political issues.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANALA FOR APPROVAL PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF AN EXTENSION TO MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS AT BUVINDA HOUSE, DUBLIN RD, NAVAN, COUNTY MEATH

Pursuant to Section 177A of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2022 and the requirements of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2022 notice is hereby given that Meath County Council intends to make an application for approval to An Bord Pleanála to carry out development which involves the construction of an extension to Meath County Council's headquarters at Buvinda House.

The proposed development consists of:
- 2 and 3 storey building of 3220 sqm comprising of a Council chamber, ancillary Council facilities and office accommodation;
- Associated bicycle parking;
- Associated landscaping including a garden courtyard;
- Site drainage works; and
- All associated site development works.

A Natura Impact Statement has been prepared in respect of the proposed development.
An Bord Pleanála may approve the proposed development in whole or in part, with or without specified modifications, or it may refuse to approve the proposed development.

The Natura Impact Statement together with all Plans and Particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection free of charge or may be purchased on payment of a small fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such a copy) during public opening hours within the period 5 December 2022 and 25 January 2023, inclusive, at the following locations:
• An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1
• Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Rd, Navan, Co Meath
• Online at: <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/planning-and-building>

Submissions or observations are invited relating to:
1. The implications of the proposed development for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area concerned.
2. The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
3. The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

All submissions must be labelled with the following project name: Meath County Council Office Extension, Buvinda House, Dublin Rd, Navan, Co Meath.
A person may question the validity of a decision by An Bord Pleanála by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986) in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2022. Practical information in respect of the judicial review process can be accessed on www.pleanala.ie or www.citizensinformation.ie.

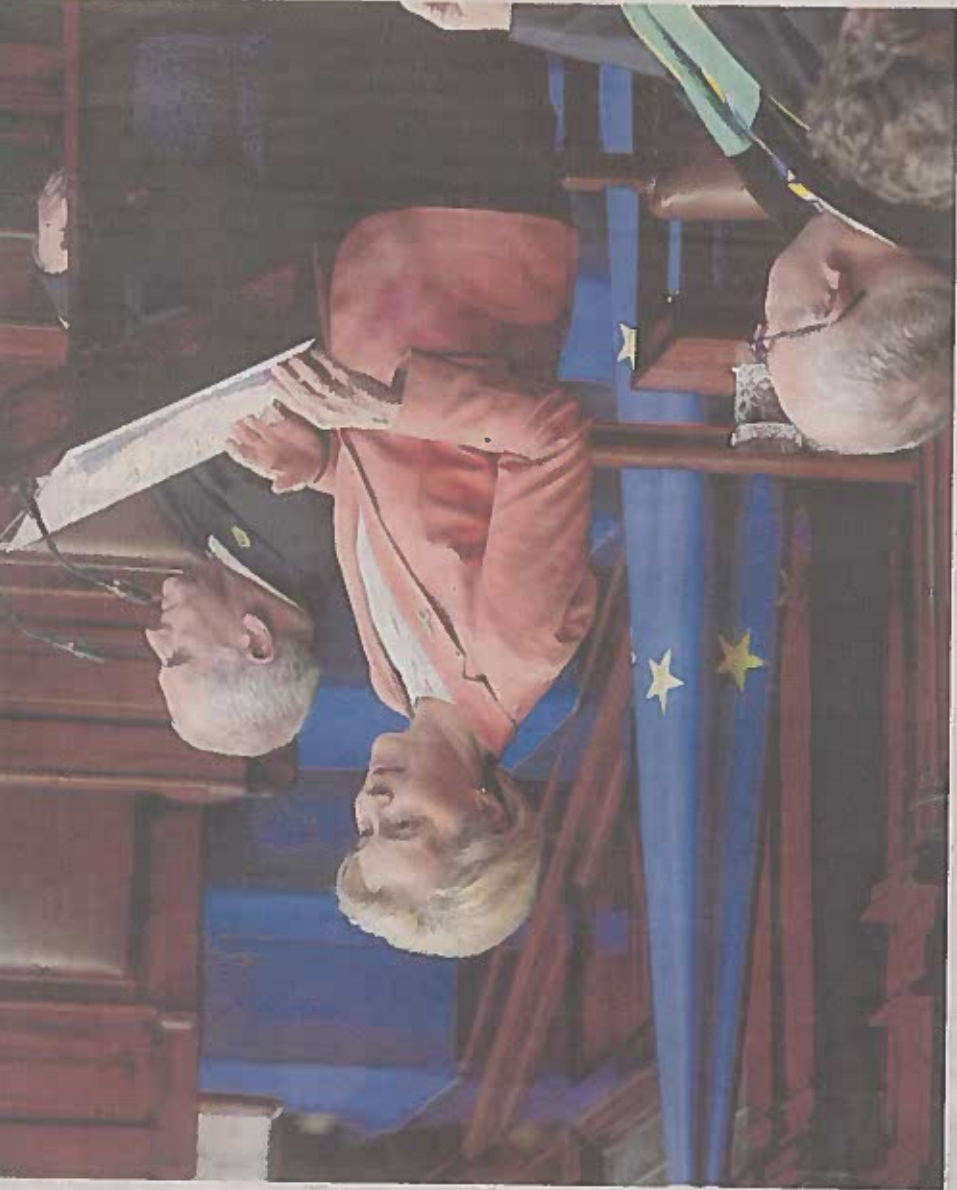
2nd December 2022
Meath County Council
Director of Services,
Martin Murray,
www.citizensinformation.ie

€387,000 EU metaverse party attracts just six guests

The event, with its own virtual DJs, was supposed to be so enticing to young people that on entering they were the EU would be able to tell them about its development policy. However, a correspondent for international development website Devex exposed the disappointing turnout. "I'm here at the gala concert in the EU foreign aid department's metaverse. After initial bemused chats with the roughly five other humans

"The event's target audience, according to the Commission, was 18- to 35-year-olds "who identify as neutral about the EU and are not particularly engaged in political issues". Brussels unveiled the

metaverse in mid-October, but it has struggled to gain support from even those working in the EU department behind it. Devex reports that one source from within the European Commission called the special metaverse "digital garbage". Responding to the criticism, an EU spokesman admitted: "The metaverse is not meeting our expectations." (© Telegraph Media Group Ltd 2022)



Pragmatic: Ursula von der Leyen addressed a joint sitting of the Houses of the Oireachtas yesterday to mark Ireland's 50-year membership of the EU. PHOTO: MAXWELLS