



On 1 January, Ireland will switch its Chairmanship of the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) for the Presidency of the EU. For six months (January-July 2013), the most western EU state will set the agenda of the European Union. In a meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Eamon Gilmore T.D stated that the EU will work closely with the United Nations on various issues. One of the most prominent issues will be the development of a common EU position in advance of the review on the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2013. Similarly, Ireland, as EU president, will press for ambitious and innovative objectives for the post-2015 MDGs. Ireland will also enhance its cooperation with the UN in the areas of food and nutrition security, human rights, gender equality, and humanitarian aid; areas in which Ireland already cooperates intensively with the UN.

Ireland has been pressing for close co-operation between the EU and the UN since it assumed OSCE presidency on 1 January this year. Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore T.D expressed his hope that during the forthcoming ministerial meeting of the OSCE in December, a process maximising the effectiveness of the cooperation of the OSCE with key partner organizations, especially the UN, would be launched.

"We look forward to assuming the Presidency of the European Union Council of Ministers in the first half of next year. We will bring to that role the same energy and commitment that we have devoted to discharging our OSCE responsibilities." The Tánaiste stated in his statement to the General Assembly.

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