Perspectives from 40 years in the European Union
History

- Foundation of the Irish State – 1921
- Protectionism
- World War II - neutrality
- 1950’s - economic stagnation
The Path to Membership

- Ireland’s first application – June 1961
- De Gaulle’s “Non” repeated – 1962 and 1967
- Treaty of Accession signed - January
- Accession (with UK and Denmark) -
Population of Ireland 1841 - 2011
Population by Age Group 1971 - 2011

- 65 years and over
- 45 - 64 years
- 25 - 44 years
- 15 - 24 years
- 0 - 14 years
GDP 1970 – 2012
(current market prices)
Exports and Imports 1972 - 2011

- Imports
- Exports
4 Main Themes

- Governance and Institutions
- Economic development
- Foreign Policy
- Society
Widening - Deepening

Ireland
Dk. UK
1973

Pt., Sp.
1981

Greece
1986

Aus. Fin. Swe.
1992
Maastricht
1995
Amsterdam
2003
Nice
2009
Lisbon

10 States
2004
Bul., Rom.
2007

Fiscal Compact
2013

Single Act
1987

2004
Bul., Rom.
2007

2013

International Law: The EU and Beyond
Treaties and Referendums

- Accession (1972) - 83% Yes
- Single European Act (1987) – 70% Yes
- Maastricht (1992) – 69% Yes
- Amsterdam (1998) 61% Yes
- Nice I, (2001) 54% No
- Nice II, (2002) 63% Yes
- Lisbon I (2008) 53% No
- Lisbon II (2009) 67% Yes
- Fiscal Stability (2012) 60% Yes
Guarantees and Assurances on Lisbon Treaty

- One Commissioner per Member State
- Taxation
- The right to life, education and the family
- Ireland’s traditional policy of military neutrality

Solemn Declaration:
- social progress,
- the protection of workers’ rights,
- the provision of public services, including non-economic services of general interest.
EU SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

- “The Treaty of Lisbon does not affect or prejudice Ireland's traditional policy of military neutrality.”
- “Any decision to move to a common defence will require a unanimous decision of the European Council.”
- ESDP crisis management and peace support operations
- Ireland plays its part in the range of ESDP Operations
Economic

- Protectionism, Agricultural
- Replacement of protected industries
- Large gain in agricultural prices, exports
- Attraction of FDI
Composition of Exports

- Industrial Produce
- Forestry and Fishing Produce
- Agricultural Produce
Social Change

- Role of Women
  - Equal Pay
  - Participation in the work force
  - Divorce, contraception and family structures
- Youth
  - Highest proportion under 15
  - Almost 30% unemployment
Conclusion
Perspectives from 40 years in the European Union

Thank You

Ευχαριστώ πολύ