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## Outgoing Defence Forces Chief of Staff takes up prestigious EU military position

The former Air Corps pilot will spend the next three years as the lead military advisor to the European Union. He is the first Irish officer to hold the position

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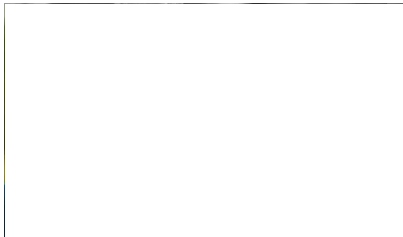

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This is the moment outgoing chief of staff of the [Defence Forces](#) took over as the [European Union's](#) top military advisor.

Lieutenant-General Sean Clancy officially became the EU's Military Committee Chairman at a ceremony in Brussels on Wednesday

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He took over from General Robert Brieger, the former head of the Austrian Armed Forces, who held the post since 2022.

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas also attended the ceremony.

 **BRUSSELS, BELGIUM - MAY 28:** Ireland's Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Sean Clancy delivers a speech during the Chairmanship handover ceremony of the European Union (EU) Military Committee at the EU Council building in Brussels, Belgium on May 28, 2025

Lt-Gen Clancy, a career Air Corps officer, has been Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces since late 2021.

The former helicopter pilot was late last year elected as the next head of the Military Committee – the first Irish officer to hold the prestigious position.

 **BRUSSELS, BELGIUM - MAY 28:** Kaja Kallas (C), High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, General Robert Brieger (L), former Chairman of the European Union Military Committee and General Seán Clancy (R), new Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, attend the ceremony of the change of command of the Military Committee of the European Union at the European Council headquarters on May 28, 2025 at the atrium of the Justus Lipsius building in Brussels, Belgium

That body is the highest military outfit in the EU. It is the forum for military consultation and cooperation between the EU Member States in the field of conflict prevention and crisis management.

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It directs all military activities within the EU framework and gives military advice and recommendations to European Union leaders.

 **Brigadier-General Rossa Mulcahy, the new Defence Forces Chief of Staff** (Image: Defence Forces/Óglaigh na hÉireann)

Lt-Gen Clancy is to be replaced as Chief of Staff by Brigadier General Rossa Mulcahy. He officially takes over as chief of staff on Sunday.

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