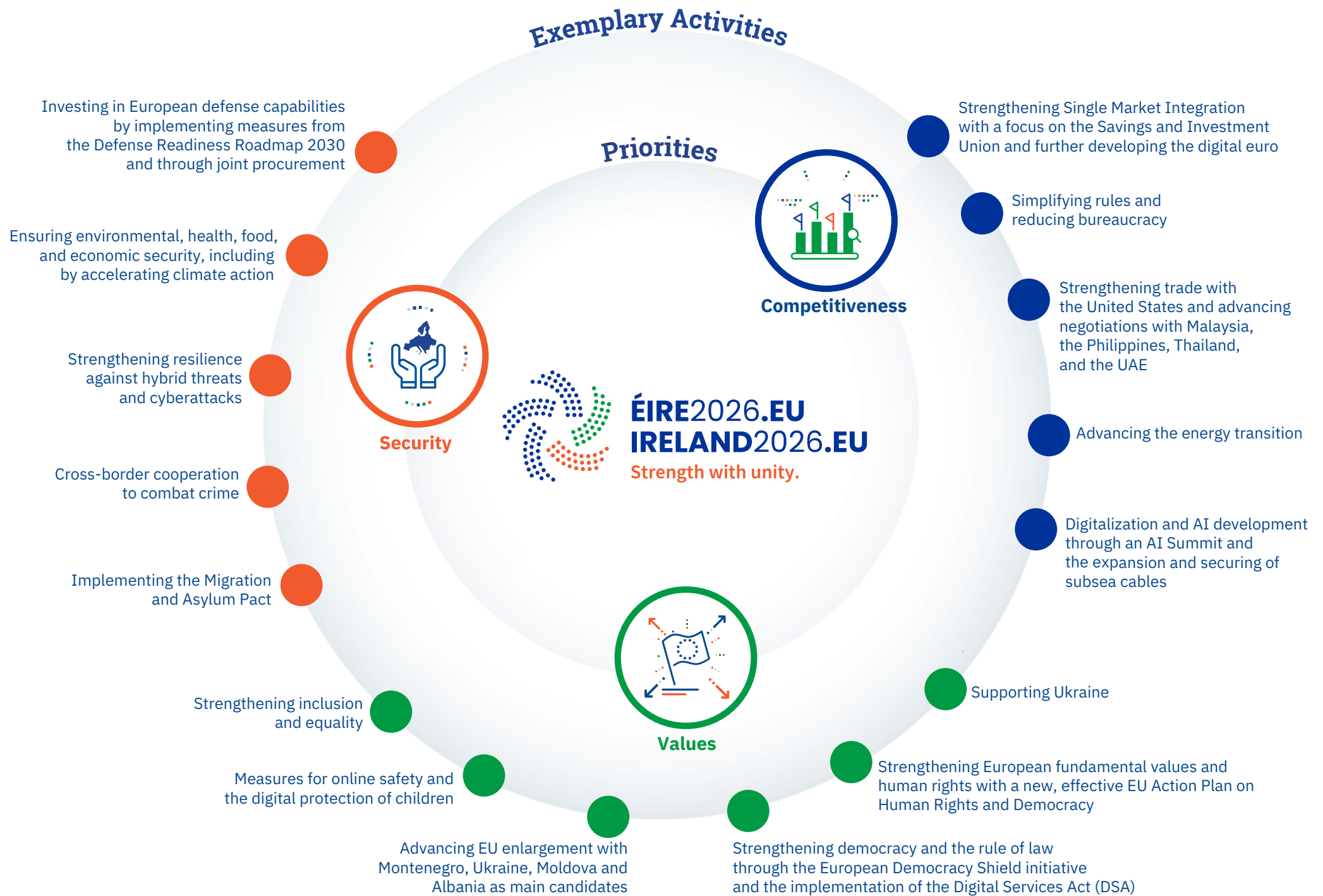


# Priorities of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU 2026/II

Assessment from the EBD Perspective

#EBDGratik



## Important for the EBD

- **Enlargement:** The Irish Council Presidency rightly recognizes enlargement as a geopolitical necessity, but must consistently link it to the rule of law, democracy, and the EU's capacity for reform.
- **MFF:** The new EU budget must clearly reflect and adequately fund Europe's priorities in security, competitiveness, innovation, climate, transformation, and democratic resilience.
- **Deepening the Single Market:** Strengthening the Single Market is the right approach, but it must not come at the expense of social, environmental, or quality standards.
- **Promoting Democracy & the Rule of Law:** Democracy, the rule of law, and fundamental rights are strongly emphasized; their effective enforcement in all member states and candidate countries remains crucial.
- **Strengthening Europe's Capacity to Act:** The program provides important impetus but remains too vague regarding institutional reforms needed for a democratically capable EU.
- **Better Regulation:** Better regulation is necessary, but it must combine simplification with transparency, participation, and the maintenance of high protection standards.
- **Defense Policy:** The expansion of European security and defense capabilities is rightly prioritized, but requires more joint procurement, coordination, and democratic oversight.

## Further Information

### Current Trio



**Ireland**  
01/07/2026 -  
31/12/2026



**Lithuania**  
01/01/2027 -  
30/06/2027



**Greece**  
01/07/2027 -  
31/12/2027

### Next Trio



**Italy**  
01/01/2028 -  
30/06/2028



**Latvia**  
01/07/2028 -  
31/12/2028



**Luxembourg**  
01/01/2029 -  
30/06/2029