

2025 NA: AMLE X Student Sport Ireland

Authors:

Gearóid Folan, TUSU

Abstract ID: 438

Event: USI/AMLÉ Comhdháil 2025

Topic: National Affairs

Keywords: Sport

BEGIN YOUR MOTION OR AMENDMENT BELOW THE DASHED LINES BENEATH THE INSTRUCTIONS

**Please put the title of the motion at the
top of the motion in H1**

**Please put your SU name (or the committee on behalf
of which you are proposing a motion or amendment) at
the top of the motion in H2**

Formatting: put any 'Congress notes/believes/' etc prefixes in **H3 or Bold** and make sure a space exists between each clause paragraph. Have a look at <https://congress.usi.ie/writing-a-motion-for-usi-congress/> for advice.

2025 NA: AMLE X Student Sport Ireland

Proposed by: TUS Students Union

Comhdháil Notes that

The AMLÉ are the largest representative body for students in Ireland. College in Ireland is much more

than just academics. Clubs and societies are a huge part of the college experience. Where the AMLÉ

has made great strides in representing students involved in societies, the same cannot be said for

that of clubs.

Comhdháil acknowledges

That the AMLÉ has developed a great connection with the Board of Irish College Society's but the same has not happened with the representative body for Third level sports, Student Sport Ireland.

Comhdháil further Notes

That the governing body for sport in third level education on the island of Ireland is Student Sport

Ireland. Student Sport Ireland works alongside the national sporting bodies as well as international

bodies to help provide students with the best Access to sports clubs and Teams on Campus as

possible.

Comhdháil Mandates

That the AMLÉ President to develop a relationship and a work alongside Student Sport Ireland, to

have ample student representation for all students on the island of Ireland and to lobby for a seat

for the USI/AMLE on the Student Sport Ireland board so AMLÉ can represent students at a higher

level in matters relation to sport.

NTA Surveys, Transportation Strategies, and LEAP Cards

Authors:

Kyla Henry, Maynooth Students' Union

Abstract ID: 435

Event: USI/AMLÉ Comhdháil 2025

Topic: National Affairs

Keywords: NTA Transportation Leap Cards

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NTA Surveys, Transportation Strategies, and LEAP Cards

Maynooth Students' Union

Comhdháil notes:

Due to the accommodation crisis, increasing numbers of students must commute greater distances to campuses using transport options that are not cost effective or timely. This

erodes the student experience, as students are forced to prioritise their commute timetables as opposed to their campus engagement; this also places greater financial burdens on students, particularly as more private carriers are relied upon due to the lack of true public transport availability. These long commutes have also been identified as a cause of excessive stress and increase in negative emotion, making it difficult for these students to concentrate in class (The Irish Times, 2024).

Comhdháil further notes:

The current public transport system is unreliable and expensive, with some students spending up to €320 to commute to and from their campus(es) per month; if trains or buses are delayed or cancelled, students miss their classes (The Irish Times, 2019)

Comhdháil further notes:

That the National Transport Authority (NTA) rolls out institution-wide Smarter Travel Surveys for both staff and students.

Comhdháil believes:

Long distance commuters face disproportionate costs, even with Young Adult and Student LEAP cards; time-based fares are shorter than the duration of commutes students undertake and do not make private bus fares commensurate with public carriers. A more affordable, efficient, and frequent public transport system is essential to the accessibility of education.

Comhdháil mandates:

The Regional Vice Presidents, the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship, and the Vice President for Campaigns, with support from the rest of the Coiste Gnó, to assist with Member Organisations (MOs) seeking to develop transport strategies that highlight and address the needs of students according to the Smarter Travel Surveys and other NTA data. The Coiste Gnó will also assist MOs in lobbying relevant stakeholders to implement each strategy's recommendations.

Comhdháil further mandates:

The Coiste Gnó to lobby the NTA to introduce greater flexibility with time-based fares accessible via LEAP cards, particularly to support students who travel long distances. The Coiste will also support MOs lobbying their institutions for more flexibility with attendance-based modules, due to inadequate public transport options for students.

References;

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/third-level-students-facing-expensive-long-commutes-as-rents-rise-1.3988608>

Air BnB & Short Term Lets

Authors:

Faye Ní Dhomhnaill, Comhaltas na Mac Léinn, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe

Abstract ID: 433

Event: USI/AMLÉ Comhdháil 2025

Topic: National Affairs

Keywords: renter rights

Motion Re: AirBnB & Short Term Lets

Comhaltas na Mac Léinn, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe

Comhdháil Notes with Concern: The growth of AirBnB and other short term holiday rental websites in Ireland, and landlords' non-compliance with regulations introduced in 2019 requiring landlords of short term lets to put in an application for a change of use planning permission unless the property already has a specific planning permission to be used for tourism or short-letting purposes. To date, only a single property has been granted permission by South Dublin Council to be converted into a short term let, in figures obtained by PBP Councillor Darragh Adelaide.

Comhdháil Believes: Stricter regulations need to be put in place to regulate the private short term rental market.

Therefore, Comhdháil Mandates: USI/AMLÉ to lobby for stricter regulations on landlords in the private rental market, as well as harsher punishment for those who do not comply with the 2019 rental regulation, including at maximum but not limited to the death penalty.

Comhdháil Further Mandates: The USI/AMLÉ Coiste Gnó won't use unregulated short term holiday lets when booking accommodations for officers.

Anti-War & Anti-Military Expansionism

Authors:

Bryan O'Mahony, AMLÉ

Abstract ID: 427

Event: USI/AMLÉ Comhdháil 2025

Topic: International Affairs

Keywords: European Army, NATO

Anti-War & Anti-Military Expansionism

International Affairs Committee

Comhdháil Notes

That Ireland is proud of its stance as a neutral country throughout history.

Comhdháil further Notes

A poll carried out by the Business Post published on March 26th 2022 indicated that 48% of Irish people are in favour of Ireland joining NATO, 59% said they wanted Ireland “to significantly increase” military spending, and 46% said they would support “a referendum for Irish troops to serve in a potential future European army.”

Comhdháil Believes

That if AMLÉ formally adopts these positions, the Irish Student Movement (Local and National) will be able to effectively mobilise and stand in solidarity against current and future crises such as these, unified as one under the AMLÉ.

Comhdháil Therefore Mandates

AMLÉ to adopt the following:

- Anti-War and anti-Military Expansionism position.
- Opposing the joining of NATO
- Opposing the increase in military spending
- To take a no stance if a referendum for Irish troops to serve in a potential future European army is run

Comhdháil Further Mandates

The Coiste Gnó, at their discretion, to support and work with organisations that are campaigning and lobbying in line with the above stances in Ireland.

Comhdháil Therefore Appeals the motions: 2022 IA 2 and 2022 EM (IA) 9

Irish Neutrality

Authors:

Matthew James Quill, Vice President for the Southern Region

Abstract ID: 414

Event: USI/AMLÉ Comhdháil 2025

Topic: International Affairs

Keywords: anti war, irish neutrality

Irish Neutrality

Proposed by the Vice President for the Southern Region

Comhdháil Welcomes:

Ireland's long-standing history as a neutral country in international conflicts such as World War II and the Cold War, its contribution to global peace, and commitments to deploying Irish military troops abroad on primarily peacekeeping missions.

Comhdháil Notes:

That Irish neutrality is currently constitutionally enshrined in Article 29, section 4, subsection 9° of the Irish Constitution, which ensures that Ireland cannot join a common defence system (e.g., a European army), without a referendum.

The primary instrument through which Irish neutrality is protected is the so-called "triple lock", enshrined through the Defence Act 1954, whereby Irish troop deployments require authorisation by:

1. A UN Security Council resolution or UN General Assembly resolution
2. A formal decision by the Irish government
3. Approval by a resolution of Dáil Éireann (the lower house of the Oireachtas or parliament, to which the government is responsible).

Comhdháil Further Notes:

Recent efforts by the Irish government to reform the triple lock, by proposing to remove the requirement for a UN Security Council/UN General Assembly authorisation, and increasing the number of Irish troops that can be deployed abroad on military operations. The primary argument in favour of this by the Irish government, is that the triple lock as it currently

stands could create a situation where a member of the UN Security Council could veto Irish troop deployments on peacekeeping missions, for instance, Russia vetoing a deployment to Ukraine. While it is true that the UN Security Council has primary responsibility for all peacekeeping deployments, it is possible for the UN General Assembly to authorise peacekeeping deployments through the “Uniting for Peace” resolution, in the event of a deadlocked Security Council.

Comhdháil Notes with Concern:

That while this proposed amendment to the triple lock is intended to give Ireland further autonomy when it comes to deploying Irish troops abroad on peacekeeping/humanitarian aid missions, it could create a precedent where the Irish government has the ability to send Irish troops on offensive missions with international organisations such as NATO. This is a direct threat to Ireland's ability to maintain neutral, in a time of increasing global conflict and instability, where Ireland can and should be a leading voice in brokering for peace on an international scale.

Comhdháil However Recognises:

That while a triple lock mechanism is important in ensuring that Irish troops are only deployed on peacekeeping missions, having the United Nations be one of the deciding parties of this authorisation undermines Ireland's sovereignty and does not take into account the voice of Irish citizens.

Comhdháil Therefore Mandates:

USI/AMLÉ to adopt a pro-Irish Neutrality stance, and the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship to lobby the Irish government, in particular the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Defence to:

1. Call for an ordinary referendum on the question of the proposed changes to the triple lock.
2. Enshrine Irish neutrality in the Constitution of Ireland through a constitutional referendum.
3. Directly involve Irish citizens in decisions surrounding Irish troop deployments and the joining of any future “European army” through citizen's assemblies or alternative mechanisms.

USI/AMLÉ should seek to collaborate with existing campaigns in this area, such as those ran by the Peace and Neutrality Alliance, the Irish Neutrality League and World BEYOND War to accomplish these lobbying goals.

Seanad Reform and Voter Registration

Authors:

Matthew James Quill, Vice President for the Southern Region

Abstract ID: 409

Event: USI/AMLÉ Comhdháil 2025

Topic: National Affairs

Keywords: electoral reform, seanad reform, voter registration

Seanad Reform and Voter Registration

Proposed by the Vice President for the Southern Region

Comhdháil Notes

That due to the passing of the Seanad Electoral (University Members) (Amendment) Bill 2024 in October of 2024, the 2025 Seanad elections were the last to use the two 3-seater National University of Ireland (NUI) and University of Dublin constituencies, and that any subsequent elections will use a single 6-seater Higher Education constituency, open to registration for graduates of higher education institutions recognised under the Higher Education Act 2022.

Comhdháil further notes

This new Higher Education constituency will not automatically register graduates as electors, and instead graduates must apply via <https://seanadvoter.ie> to be included in the register of electors. This is despite the fact that higher education institutions already possess all the relevant information to register a student for such automatically upon graduation.

Comhdháil recognises

That current Irish postgraduate students and researchers who hold an undergraduate degree from an Irish Higher Education Institution are eligible to register for Seanad elections, and remain members of USI/AMLÉ for the duration of their study/research.

Comhdháil regrets:

That while the introduction of the Higher Education constituency is a progressive step towards more open Seanad elections, it still falls short of universal suffrage, as it excludes economically disadvantaged individuals who may not have the means to attend a higher

education institution, as well as apprentices and students at further education colleges.

Comhdháil mandates:

The Vice President for Campaigns and Vice President for Equality & Citizenship to coordinate an annual campaign on Seanad election information and registration with the Regional Vice Presidents, co-ordinated with Member Organisations and the Electoral Commission. This campaign may be delivered in the form of on-campus events, information stalls and social media, and should coincide with the opening of Seanad voter registration. This campaign should particularly target students in final year, if they will graduate before the registration window opens for a given year, and current postgraduate taught students and researchers.

Comhdháil further mandates:

The Vice President for Campaigns and Vice President for Equality & Citizenship to continue to lobby for automatic Seanad voter registration upon graduation, universal suffrage in Seanad elections, and to investigate the expansion of franchise to graduates of institutions in Northern Ireland in collaboration with the NUS-USI President.

Comhdháil Thereby Repeals 2023 EM (NA) 2 Seanad Reform

ESU Membership

Authors:

Chris Stewart, USI/AMLÉ

Abstract ID: 401

Event: USI/AMLÉ Comhdháil 2025

Topic: International Affairs

Keywords: ESU, European Students' Union, international

ESU Membership

USI/AMLÉ Vice President for the Border, Midlands, & Western Region

COMHDHÁIL NOTES:

That USI/AMLÉ is longstanding member of the European Students' Union (ESU), Europe's representative body for student unions.

COMHDHÁIL FURTHER NOTES:

ESU has a diverse membership and is not always able to support students and their interests equitably across the continent. USI/AMLÉ's membership in ESU is voluntary and contingent upon its interests being supported by ESU.

COMHDHÁIL BELIEVES:

Like all democratic organisations, ESU is imperfect and prone to errors.

THEREFORE, COMHDHÁIL MANDATES:

That the President and designated International Affairs representative review the governing documents & policy positions of ESU annually, providing a summary audit for the Coiste to evaluate significant misalignments and threats.

COMHDHÁIL FURTHER MANDATES:

The President & International Affairs representative inform Comhairle Náisiúnta of any instances in which ESU flouts its own governing documents & positions, regardless of the results of the above audit. Such (in)actions will be used to evaluate USI/AMLÉ's continuing membership in ESU. Any improprieties in ESU, explicit or tacit, shall be considered in the

context of USI/AMLÉ's stated positions and mandates.

COMHDHÁIL LASTLY MANDATES:

The President & International Affairs representative must present a report on the events transpiring at ESU Board Meetings and Student Conventions no later than two (2) Comhairlí Náisiúnta after the conclusion of these events.

References:

[History of ESU](#)

[ESU Policies](#)