

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN | SCHOOL OF HISTORY**  
***INTO EUROPE – REFLECTIONS ON 50 YEARS OF EU MEMBERSHIP***

**DATE: Thursday, 10 November 2022, 15.30-18.30**

**LOCATION: The FitzGerald Debating Chamber, UCD Student Centre (Belfield)**

For almost a decade during the 1960s and early 1970s, Ireland, Britain, Denmark and Norway sought accession to the then European Economic Community (EEC). French objections directed at London meant the process of enlarging the EEC was delayed until after Charles de Gaulle resigned the presidency in 1969. By 1972, the bulk of the membership negotiations had concluded and three of the four candidates proceeded to join the Common Market; Norway rejected membership in a referendum. This event, hosted by the School of History at UCD, marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first EU enlargement, exploring the post-membership years through Irish, Danish and Norwegian lenses.

The first panel reflects on the role of ‘Europe’ in Irish life after membership took effect on 1 January 1973. Central to this discussion is what impact did membership and the process of European integration have on different aspects of Irish society in the decades after accession. This multidisciplinary panel will dissect different aspects of how Ireland adapted to membership both at a policy level and at a wider societal level. This will be followed by the second panel’s *Roundtable* which explores the different experiences connected to the first enlargement and the story after 1973. Former Irish and EU officials as well as the current Danish and Norwegian Ambassadors to Ireland will reflect on the journey since 1973 and, in Norway’s case, the road not taken.

**PROGRAMME**

**WELCOME**

**Prof. William Mulligan** | Head of the School of History, UCD

**OPENING REMARKS**

**Mr. Thomas Byrne, T.D.**, Minister for European Affairs

**PANEL I**

**IRELAND AND EUROPE – THE PROCESS OF ADAPTATION AFTER 1973**

Chair: **Prof. Michael J. Geary** (NTNU, Norway/School of History/Humanities Institute, UCD)

**Prof. Diarmaid Ferriter** (School of History, UCD): the role of Europe in Irish society

**Prof. Imelda Maher** (School of Law, UCD): Irish/EU law, governance, and challenges after 1973

**Prof. Gerardine Meaney** (School of English, UCD): Irish culture shifts post-membership

**Dr Susannah Riordan** (School of History, UCD): Irish Foreign Policy post-accession

**Q&A SESSION**

***15 MINS COFFEE BREAK***

## PANEL II ROUNDTABLE: DIVERGING EUROPEAN PATHS

Moderator: **Ambassador (ret.) David O’Sullivan** | Director, Institute of International and European Affairs, Dublin

**Ambassador Lars Thuesen**, Danish Ambassador to Ireland

**Ambassador Mari Skåre**, Norwegian Ambassador to Ireland

**Ambassador (ret.) Rory Montgomery**

### Q&A SESSION

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

**Prof. Michael J. Geary**

**Dinner** (participants only)

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*This event is generously co-funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs Communicating Europe Initiative.*



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