

EUROPEAN UNION: EU appoints a new Special Representative for Human Rights

European Council (28.02.2019) – <https://bit.ly/2UjC4bU> – Today, the Council appointed Eamon Gilmore as EU Special Representative for Human Rights. Mr Gilmore will replace Stavros Lambrinidis, who was appointed in 2012 the first EU Special Representative. Mr Gilmore will take up his duties on 1 March 2019 and has been appointed initially for two years.

The tasks of the Special Representative for Human Rights are to enhance the effectiveness and visibility of EU human rights policy. The Special Representative has a broad, flexible mandate, which provides the possibility of adapting to evolving geopolitical circumstances. The Special Representative will work closely with the European External Action Service, which will provide full support to his work.

As former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Eamon Gilmore had government responsibility for the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, including its core human rights provisions. Since October 2015, he has been the High Representative's Special Envoy for the Colombian Peace Process. His work and contribution to the peace process were greatly appreciated by all sides.

EU Special Representatives promote the EU's policies and interests in certain regions and countries as well as issues

of particular concern or interest for the EU. They play an active role in efforts to consolidate peace, stability and the rule of law. The first EU Special Representatives were appointed in 1996. Currently, eight EUSRs support the work of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini.

The decision was adopted by written procedure on 28 February.

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