



Country Case Study on Ireland

*‘Resilience and renewal:
The evolution and future prospects of the Irish Labour Party’*

By Dr Barry Colfer (IIE)

Friday 19th June 2026

12.30 – 14.00 CET

[Zoom](#)

- 12.30 – 12.35** **Opening by Ania Skrzypek**, Director for Research and Training;
Editor of the Next Left Country Case Studies series, FEPS
- 12.35 – 13.00** **Presentation by Barry Colfer**, Director of Research, Institute of International
and European Affairs (IIE)
- 13.00 – 13.10** **First response to the presentation by:**
- Aodhán Ó Ríordáin**, Member of European Parliament, S&D
David Kitching, International Secretary, Irish Labour Party; VP -
Head of Public Affairs & Communications, Irish Recorded Music
Association
Shana Cohen, Director, TASC
Rhonda Donaghey, Trade Union Official; PES Activist; Member of
Irish Labour Party, Labour Women and PES Women
Kevin Cunningham, Lecturer in Politics, Technological University
Dublin
- 13.10 – 13.55** **Discussion**
- 13.55 – 14.00** **Conclusions by Ania Skrzypek and Barry Colfer**

Biography Barry Colfer



Barry Colfer is the IIEA Director of Research. Barry holds a Ph.D. and M.Phil from the Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS) at the University of Cambridge. Prior to joining the IIEA, Barry was Max Weber Fellow at EUI Florence. Barry previously held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Oxford, Harvard University, and the Politecnico di Torino in Italy. Prior to this Barry studied at University College Dublin and spent two years in student politics. Barry's research interests include the politics of European integration, the future of work, and the consequences of Brexit for Ireland. Barry is a fellow of the UK Royal Society of the Arts (RSA) and has worked at both the Irish and European Parliaments as well as with a number of leading European think tanks.

List of participants:

- **Agnès Hubert**, Policy maker and author on gender equality and social innovation; Visiting Professor, College of Europe
- **Ania Skrzypek**, Director for Research and Training; Editor of the Next Left Country Case Studies series, FEPS
- **Anna Kraft**, Programme Representative, FES Dublin Office
- **Aodhán Ó Ríordáin**, Member of European Parliament, S&D
- **Barry Colfer**, Director of Research, Institute of International and European Affairs (IIE)
- **Bradley Ward**, Teaching Fellow at the Department of Political Science and International Studies, University of Birmingham
- **Carlo D'Ippoliti**, Professor of political economy, Sapienza University of Rome
- **Caitlin Reder**, Administrative Assistant, European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU)
- **David Kitching**, International Secretary, Irish Labour Party; VP - Head of Public Affairs & Communications, Irish Recorded Music Association
- **Dmytro Mamaiev**, Member of the Coordination Board, SD Platform
- **Eleonor Hickey**, Graduate, University of Sussex
- **Gerhard Marchl**, Head of Department of European Politics, Karl-Renner-Institut
- **Gerassimos Moschonas**, Professor of Comparative Politics Department of Political Science and History, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences
- **Imogen Tyreman**, Chair, Labour International
- **Iris Vijverberg**, Project Officer, FEPS
- **Julia Wild**, Gender Coordinator and Project Officer, FEPS
- **Kevin Cunningham**, Lecturer in Politics, Technological University Dublin
- **Matjaž Nahtigal**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
- **Michael Holmes**, Senior Lecturer in Political Science, Université Catholique de Lille
- **Nik Brandal**, Associate Professor, Oslo New University College
- **Øivind Bratberg**, Senior Lecturer in Political Science, University of Oslo
- **Richard Corbett**, Former MEP for Yorkshire & Humber; Former Labour Party Leader in the European Parliament
- **Rhonda Donaghey**, Trade Union Official; PES Activist; Member of Irish Labour Party, Labour Women and PES Women
- **Ruxandra Ivan**, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Bucharest
- **Seán Grant**, Trainee, Political Planning team, S&D
- **Shana Cohen**, Director, TASC
- **Shane Murphy**, Political Advisor, S&D
- **Victor Lachenait**, Political Advisor, S&D