Standing Committee for International Affairs (SCIA)

'Oone hundred years of Irish foreign policy: looking back, looking forwards'
A conference to mark the centenary of the establishment of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, now the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Thursday, 23 May 2019

9.00 Registration
9.20 Welcome Peter Kennedy, President Royal Irish Academy
9.30 Keynote Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney, TD
Delivered by Niall Burgess, Secretary General, DFAT
9.55 Introduction Mervyn O'Driscoll, Chair, Standing Committee for International Affairs (SCIA)

10.00 Panel One ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION OF IRISH DIPLOMACY
Chair Colin Wrafter (SCIA)
Speakers Gerard Keown
‘Knocking on the door: the influence of the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 on the development of Irish Foreign Policy’
Mary MacDiarmada (DCU)
‘Art O’Brien: London envoy of the first Dáil Éireann: “a diplomat in the citadel of the enemy’s authority”’
Dermot Keogh (UCC)
‘The foundation of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and early diplomacy in Latin America’

11.25 Coffee break

11.50 Panel Two PERSPECTIVES ON IRISH DIPLOMACY
Chair Etain Tannam (SCIA)
Speakers Shane Darcy (NUIG)
‘The evolving relationship of business, human rights and Irish Foreign Policy’
Owen McGee
‘Finance, geopolitics and the avoidance of war: an evolving framework for Irish diplomacy?’
Ann Marie O’Brien (MU)
‘A century of change: the (in)visibility of women in the Irish foreign service, 1919–2019’
Niall Connors
‘Education and the humanitarian space: is there a dissonance between military education and military practice?’

13.15 Lunch
14.00 Panel Three SECURITY, DEFENCE AND PEACE KEEPING

Chair Delia Ferri (SCIA)
Speakers
- Timothy O’Brien (UNTSI)
  ‘The evolution of Defence Forces Peace Support Operations’
- Karen Devine (DCU)
  ‘100 years of Irish neutrality: is it still a “cornerstone” of Irish Foreign Policy?’
- Paul Hegarty (DFTC)
  ‘Defence engagement in Irish Foreign Policy: time for a joint force concept’

15.25 Coffee break

15.50 Plenary DR SINEAD WALSH, EU AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH SUDAN

Chair Andrew Cottey (SCIA)

16.35 Roundtable THE FUTURE OF IRISH DIPLOMACY

Chair Suzanne Egan (SCIA)
Speakers
- Martin Mansergh, MRIA
  ‘From a restrictive framework to a shared one: the development of the scope and context of a sovereign Irish State’
- Donncha O’Connell (NUIG)
  ‘Domesticating international human rights obligations as a means of bolstering Irish Foreign Policy’
- Eilis Ward (NUIG)
  ‘Ireland, empathy and international relations: ideas in search of a home’

17.30 Conference Close  Mervyn O’Driscoll, Chair, SCIA

18.00 Launch in Iveagh House

Irish Studies in International Affairs launch in Iveagh House, St Stephen’s Green by Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Niall Burgess

The Academy has collated a special commemorative edition of the journal Irish Studies in International Affairs for this conference. This special compilation online issue of articles from previous editions of the journal is available to download for free via the journal page on our website ria.ie/journals.

The conference is supported by the Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Department of Defence.