

## Malone Stephen HQ-POLITICAL

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**From:** Cunningham Gerry HQ-POLITICAL  
**Sent:** Tuesday 30 March 2021 15:04  
**To:** Hickey Emma HQ-POLITICAL; McDonald Jean GENEVA PM  
**Subject:** FW: Background Note- Special Envoy or Ambassadors for Human Rights in the EU and Likeminded  
**Attachments:** Background Note- Special Envoy or Ambassadors for Human Rights in the EU and Likeminded.docx

FYI

Michael has meetings from 9-10 and 2-4 GVA time so I was going to propose to PD either 10:15 (9:15 HQ) or after 4pm (3pm HQ)  
Let me know if either of these do not work for you

Gerry

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**From:** Cunningham Gerry HQ-POLITICAL  
**Sent:** Tuesday 30 March 2021 15:00  
**To:** Gaffey Michael HOM GENEVA PM <Michael.Gaffey@dfa.ie>  
**Cc:** McDonald Jean GENEVA PM <Jean.McDonald@dfa.ie>; Hickey Emma HQ-POLITICAL <Emma.Hickey@dfa.ie>  
**Subject:** FW: Background Note- Special Envoy or Ambassadors for Human Rights in the EU and Likeminded

Michael, Jean

Further to the separate discussions with the PD earlier, Catherine and Emma put together the attached overview of how other countries are utilising their HR envoys. I will follow up with you separately regarding timing of the discussion tomorrow to find a time that suits all – I would imagine 30 minutes approx.

Regards

Gerry

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**From:** Hyland Sonja HQ-POLITICAL <[Sonja.Hyland@dfa.ie](mailto:Sonja.Hyland@dfa.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 30 March 2021 14:35  
**To:** Cunningham Gerry HQ-POLITICAL <[Gerry.Cunningham@dfa.ie](mailto:Gerry.Cunningham@dfa.ie)>; #HQ-POL Directors Office <[POL.DirectorsOffice@dfa.ie](mailto:POL.DirectorsOffice@dfa.ie)>  
**Cc:** #HQ-POL Human Rights <[POL.HumanRights@dfa.ie](mailto:POL.HumanRights@dfa.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: Background Note- Special Envoy or Ambassadors for Human Rights in the EU and Likeminded

Gerry, colleagues

Many thanks for this. Grateful if we could have a brief call with Geneva tomorrow to discuss how we might take forward the idea of an Irish Envoy in the HR space

Sonja

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**From:** Cunningham Gerry HQ-POLITICAL <[Gerry.Cunningham@dfa.ie](mailto:Gerry.Cunningham@dfa.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday 29 March 2021 16:29  
**To:** #HQ-POL Directors Office <[POL.DirectorsOffice@dfa.ie](mailto:POL.DirectorsOffice@dfa.ie)>  
**Cc:** #HQ-POL Human Rights <[POL.HumanRights@dfa.ie](mailto:POL.HumanRights@dfa.ie)>  
**Subject:** Background Note- Special Envoy or Ambassadors for Human Rights in the EU and Likeminded

PD

With thanks to Catherine for preparing, please find attached a background note briefly summarising the current status of Human Rights Ambassadors in ten EU MS, as well as in the UK and US.

- The majority adopt an overall “Ambassador at Large” approach.
- Additional special responsibilities are common e.g. Media/online freedom (EE, FI, NL ); Religion freedom/holocaust (EE; SE) Democracy/RoL (FI, LT, ES); HRDs (FR, LU); LGBTI (IT); B&HR (IT, LU); Gender (LT, NL).
- The Ambassadors from FR; NL; DE; SE all seem to attach a high priority (perhaps with greater authority) to maintaining a close dialogue with wider civil society; mainstreaming human rights across foreign policy; and representation in relevant multilateral fora at HRC/UPR or on specific topics at HRC/UPR; EU/CoE/OSCE fora etc
- Only one appears to be a career diplomat (IT)
- A few countries have additional “special envoys” (Religion - NL, UK). The US does not appear to have an “Ambassador at Large” but has “Special Envoys” on LGBTI, Religious Freedom, and on Gender Equality.
- Apart from the issue of mandates; reporting; and resources, the level of interaction at EU level is noteworthy (several meetings per year and some 5-6 statements in the last month alone).

We are happy to follow up in due course in relation to any queries

Regards

Gerry