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#### COVER NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Nomination of Mr Phil HOGAN as Member of the European Commission

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Delegations will find attached a letter from Mr Declan KELLEHER, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the European Union, forwarding the letter from Mr Leo VARADKAR, the Taoiseach, Prime Minister of Ireland, nominating Mr Phil HOGAN as Member of the European Commission.

E-MAIL / FAX

IM 008696 2019  
02.08.2019

Buan Ionadaíocht  
na hÉireann  
chúig an Aontas Eorpach



Permanent Representation  
of Ireland  
to the European Union

1<sup>st</sup> August 2019

Commission President Elect Ursula von der Leyen  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 41  
1049 Brussels

Dear President Elect,

Please find enclosed a letter from Taoiseach Leo Varadkar nominating Mr. Phil Hogan to be Ireland's Commissioner in the next Commission College.

Yours Sincerely,

Declan Kelleher  
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the EU

REPRÉSENTATION PERMANENTE DE L'IRLANDE AUPRÈS DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE  
Rue Froissart 50, 1040 Bruxelles Tél. 02 282 32 00 Fax 02 230 32 03

Oifig an Taoisigh  
Office of the Taoiseach

21 July, 2019

Ursula Von der Leyen  
President-elect of the European Commission  
European Commission  
CHAR 3/003

Dear Ursula

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my sincere congratulations to you on having been nominated as President of the European Commission.

I can assure you of my strong solidarity, and look forward to cooperating closely with you in your efforts to shape a positive and effective Union for the future.

In this regard, I am pleased to nominate Phil Hogan for a second term as Ireland's member of the European Commission. Mr. Hogan has done an outstanding job over the past five years as Commissioner for Agriculture and Regional Development and I believe he has much to contribute to the next Commission. My decision to nominate him for the five years ahead is an indication of the importance we attach to the Union, and to the central role of the European Commission.

I hope that the nominations procedure and the engagements with the European Parliament progress well, and look forward to the formal appointment of the full European Commission at the October European Council.

I was pleased to have an initial phone conversation with you on 12 July and look forward to further more detailed discussions in the period ahead. I would of course be delighted to welcome you to Dublin in the near future. Such a visit would be a powerful signal of continued EU solidarity in the context of Brexit.

Yours sincerely,



Leo Varadkar T.D.  
Taoiseach

Copies to: President-in-office of the Council, Tytti Tuppurainen; Secretary General of the Council, Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen; Electronic copy to [nominations@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:nominations@consilium.europa.eu)

Oifig an Taoisigh, Tithe an Rialtais, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 R5B3.  
Office of the Taoiseach, Government Buildings, Dublin 2, D02 R5B3.



### Short Biography of Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development

Phil Hogan has served as EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development since 1 November 2014.

His policy priorities include modernising and simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), strengthening European farmers' market resilience and their position on the food chain, and developing new export markets for EU agri-food products.

Notable achievements during his mandate include:

- New EU rules on Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs) to strengthen the farmer's position in the food supply chain
- Establishing Task Force Rural Africa to improve EU-Africa cooperation in the field of agriculture and sustainable, responsible rural investment
- The Cork 2.0 Declaration ("A better life in rural areas") elaborating a 10 point plan for EU rural development policy in the 2020s
- Prudent market management and €1 billion in additional support for EU farmers during the 2015/2016 markets crisis arising from the Russian ban
- New rules governing Organic production
- Several waves of simplifying the CAP
- Central involvement in improving the EU's global trade profile in agri-food, including conclusion of the Canada and Japan trade deals
- An updated EU Bioeconomy strategy

Priorities for the last year of his mandate include:

- Fighting for a strong and ambitious EU budget for the CAP 2021-2027
- Guiding the Commission's future CAP proposal through the co-decision process
- Improving the development of, access to and uptake of financial instruments tailored to the needs of the agri-food sector
- Support European agri-food sector in maximizing its opportunities in global markets

Commissioner Hogan grew up on a farm in rural Kilkenny, in south-east Ireland. From 1989 until he became Commissioner, he represented the Carlow/Kilkenny constituency in Dáil Éireann, the Irish Parliament.

Between 2011 and 2014, he served as Irish Minister for the Environment and Local Government, successfully implementing a broad-ranging agenda, including the biggest reform of local government since the foundation of the Irish State.

He has also occupied various senior posts at local, national and European level, including President of the Council of EU Environment Ministers (2013), Chairman of the European People's Party of Environment Ministers (2012-14), National Director of Elections for the Fine Gael party (2010-11), Fine Gael Director of Organisation (2002-07), Chairman of Kilkenny County Council (1985 and 1998), Chairman of the Fine Gael Parliamentary Group (1995-2001) and Minister of State at the Irish Department of Finance (1994-95).

Prior to his entry into politics, he established and subsequently directed an insurance and real estate business. He also managed the family farm between 1981-1983. He is a graduate of University College Cork, with a BA in Economics and Geography (1981).