EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DES DROITS SOCIAUX

Case Document No.4

European Confederation of Police (EuroCOP), the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors (AGSI) and the Garda Representative Association (GRA) v. Ireland
Complaint No. 260/2026

REPLY BY THE GOVERNMENT TO THE COMPLAINANT ORGANISATION'S RESPONSE ON ADMISSIBILITY

Registered at the Secretariat on 16 October 2026

REF: 95/2026 GS/SD

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF POLICE (EUROCOP)

AND

THE ASSOCIATION OF GARDA SERGEANTS AND INSPECTORS

AND

THE GARDA REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMPLAINANTS

V

IRELAND

RESPONDENT

COMPLAINT NO. 260/2026

SUPPLEMENTARY OBSERVATIONS OF THE RESPONDENT ON ADMISSIBILITY

16 October 2026

INTRODUCTION

1. By letter dated 4 September 2026, the Respondent was invited to submit a reply to the response of the European Confederation of Police ("**EuroCOP**"), the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors ("**AGSI**"), and the Garda Representative Association ("**GRA**") (the

"**Complainants**" or the "**Complainant Organisations**") to the Respondent's observations on the admissibility of the above-mentioned collective complaint (the "**Complaint**").

2. The response of the Complainant Organisations consists of the following documents:

   i. A document entitled '*Reply of the Complainants to Paragraphs 8 to 17 and 27 to 29 of the Respondent's Written Observations on Admissibility'* (the "**Reply**"); and

   ii. A one page document referred to as a signature sheet, which appears to be a copy of the last page of the aforementioned document, with a number of signatures, or copies of same thereon.

RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINANTS' REPLY

3. First, the Respondent's preliminary objection concerning signatures and authority has not been addressed by the Complainants.

4. In the opening paragraph of the Reply, the Complainant organisations state that their response to the Respondent's objection concerning signatures and authority, at paragraphs 19 to 26 of the Observations, is being addressed separately on the Complainants' behalf and is not duplicated within the document. However, no further documentation addressing such specific objections has been provided.

5. Accordingly, it remains the case that the Complaint is inadmissible insofar as it has not been established if the author of the Complaint is authorised to act on behalf of EuroCOP or has been mandated to represent the AGSI and GRA.

6. Second, and as a separate issue, it is noted that the Complainants have materially expanded on the issues raised in their Reply.

7. This is material that should have been contained within the Complaint itself. It is clearly inappropriate that additional allegations, as well as detail of the scope of the complaints made, is submitted to the European Committee of Social Rights (the "**Committee**") by way of response. It is in these circumstances that the Respondent does not consider it appropriate to reply to same and maintains the position that the Complainants should not have been regarded as having properly identified the alleged non-compliance with the Revised European Social Charter (the "**Charter**"), within the meaning of Article 4 of the "*Additional Protocol to the European Social Charter Providing for a System of Collective Complaints*" (the "**Additional Protocol**").

8. Third, the Complainants have misrepresented the Respondent's initial response at paragraph 8 of the Respondent's Observations on Admissibility.

9. In this regard, it is argued at paragraph 13 of the Reply that the Respondent has "*mischaracterised the legal position of sworn garda members, specifically."* The Respondent strongly refutes any claim of mischaracterisation. The Respondent correctly stated at paragraph 8 of its observations, that "*Garda staff continue to have a protected right to collective action, representation by union bodies and can take strike action."*

CONCLUSION

10. For the reasons identified above, in addition to the submissions advanced in our Observations of 16 July 2026, the Respondent respectfully submits that the Committee should declare the Complaint inadmissible.