



**PRESS BRIEFING NOTE  
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No embargo**

**IRISH MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGES GREEN RYDER CUP**

Dick Roche, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has supported the efforts of the European Tour and Ryder Cup Ltd in addressing environmental issues at this year's Ryder Cup.

**Minister Roche said:**

"The Ryder Cup is a momentous occasion for the people of Ireland. The eyes of the world will focus on The K Club. The event will stimulate huge benefits to Ireland's economy and society. In an age of concern for our environment and the way we consume natural resources, it is absolutely right that this year's event also considers such matters.

"We are delighted that our own Race Against Waste initiative has been involved, along with our National Parks and Wildlife Service. Further support and encouragement from the new Environment Unit in Fáilte Ireland, from the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of Ireland and from the Golfing Union of Ireland has meant that a number of key bodies have been engaged.

"The K Club clearly has a strong environmental programme and the event organisers can take what they have learnt in Ireland and apply it to future professional golf events.

"After the dust has settled, we hope the partnerships established for The Ryder Cup will continue to build an environmental programme for golf in Ireland, which will complement the approaches of many other sectors. In particular, I would ask all the golf facilities in Ireland to take a closer look at ways to extend their own environmental stewardship.

"I would like to congratulate Ryder Cup Europe LLP for its efforts to integrate environmental best practices into the event. It is pioneering work and I wish them well with its future continuance."

**Richard Hills, Director of the European Tour and Ryder Cup LLP, responded:**

"The European Tour and Ryder Cup Europe LLP recognise that we have a responsibility to conserve the quality of the environment and the natural resources that play such an important part in the success of our tournaments.

Every sector, land use and even individual, is now encouraged and expected to play a part. Golf is no exception. Everything we do is affected by the pressures of growing public expectation and new legislation. Golf now has to adapt to the challenges and the many opportunities that environmental conservation presents.



We want to ensure that our golf events are prepared and staged in accordance with good environmental practice.

The Ryder Cup represents a unique, high profile opportunity to raise awareness of environmental issues amongst golfers and the general public. As one of the world's most watched sporting events, it has a role to play in promoting environmental stewardship within society at large."

**For more information on the greening of golf events, contact Jonathan Smith at Golf Environment Europe at [jonathan@golfenvironmenteurope.org](mailto:jonathan@golfenvironmenteurope.org), or on 0044 07917 453147.**

