



**AN BILLE UM AN ATHRÚ GO DTÍ AN EURO
(MÉIDEANNA), 2001
EURO CHANGEOVER (AMOUNTS) BILL, 2001**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

General

The purpose of this Bill is, in necessary cases, to replace Irish pound (IR£) amounts that are set down in law with convenient amounts in euro with effect from 1 January 2002. The amounts being replaced relate to certain fees, charges etc., levied by Government Departments or bodies, and to certain thresholds, where the amounts are or may be paid in cash or need to be easily remembered. The Bill provides that the fee etc. amounts involved will from 1 January 2002 be reduced to the nearest convenient euro amount below the exact equivalent of the current IR£ amounts, so as to favour the citizen, and that the threshold amounts will be increased to the nearest convenient euro amount above the exact equivalent, again so as to favour the citizen.

The background to the Bill is that under Regulation (EC) No. 974/98 of 3 May 1998¹, IR£ money amounts in law at end-2001 are from then on to be read as money amounts in euro at the conversion rate (1 euro = £0.787564). Clearly, money amounts so produced will not be smooth amounts in euro (e.g. £100 will convert, with rounding, to 126.97 euro). In many cases this will not matter, but in others it will, for example in some cases where amounts are paid in cash. The Bill deals only with cases where a convenient euro amount has been identified as necessary. It does not deal with money amounts in the tax or social welfare codes, or in certain other major codes, e.g. road tax: these will be dealt with separately.

The Bill also provides for amendments to the Economic and Monetary Union Act, 1998, the Credit Union Act, 1997 and the Heritage Act, 1995.

Provisions

Section 1 provides for the replacement of certain IR£ amounts in specified legislation with convenient amounts in euro, with effect from 1 January 2002. Where the amounts involved relate to fees, charges etc., the IR£ amounts in question and the replacement amounts in euro are listed in *Schedule 1* and the statutory references are listed in *Schedule 2*. The replacement amounts in euro are all less than the exact euro equivalent of the IR£ amounts. Where the amounts relate to thresholds, they are listed in *Schedule 3* and the statutory references are listed in *Schedule 4*: in these cases the replacement amounts are all greater than the exact euro equivalent

¹OJ L 139, 11.5.1998, pp.1-5.

of the IR£ amounts. The section also provides that the term “monetary amount” used in the section includes an amount specified in words or in a combination of numerals and words.

Section 2 dispenses with any consents or consultations normally required for the making of any statutory instrument listed in *Schedules 2* or *4*, for the purposes of the changes to be effected by *Section 1*. It is intended to preclude any doubt as to whether such consents or consultations might be required.

Section 3 provides that nothing in the Bill is to be construed as restricting any existing power of an appropriate authority to set or alter amounts in the enactments listed in *Schedules 2* or *4*.

Section 4 provides for technical amendments to certain sections in the Economic and Monetary Union Act, 1998, in order to enable the exact time of the withdrawal of legal tender status from IR£ notes and coins (intended for midnight on Saturday 9 February 2002) to be aligned with the timing of the repeal of certain sections in earlier law under which IR£ notes and coins are issued or under which limits are placed on the number of coins that may be tendered.

Section 5 amends the Credit Union Act, 1997 with effect from 1 January 2002 so as to redefine a share in a credit union as one euro standing to the credit of a member of that credit union. It also provides for a number of consequential changes to amounts dependent on the definition of a share, and for the substitution of convenient amounts in euro for certain minimum and maximum amounts in the Act.

Section 6 substitutes in section 19(6)(a) of the Heritage Act, 1995, a convenient euro threshold for the declaration of interest by employees of the Heritage Council. While the principles set out in *section 1* have been followed, it is considered advisable for drafting reasons to provide for a specific amendment for the amount in question rather than to include it under *section 1* and *Schedules 3* and *4*.

Section 7 is a standard provision, providing for the citation of the Act and for the citation of the amendments provided for in *sections 4* and *5* with the principal Acts.

The Schedules

There are four Schedules to the Bill (*see section 1*). *Schedule 1* relates to fees, charges etc. and sets out the IR£ amounts that are being replaced, and the euro amounts that will replace them from 1 January 2002, in the places in law where replacement has been identified as necessary. *Schedule 2* lists the places in law. *Schedule 3* relates to thresholds and sets out the IR£ amounts that are being replaced, and the euro amounts that will replace them from 1 January 2002, in the places in law where replacement has been identified as necessary. *Schedule 4* lists the places in law.

Table I attached draws together the information in *Schedules 1* and *2*, with a brief description of each fee, charge etc. item being changed. *Table II* attached draws together the information in *Schedules 3* and *4*, with a brief description of each threshold item being changed.

An Roinn Airgeadais,
Feabhra, 2001.

TABLE I

The following table brings together the information in Schedules 1 and 2 to the Bill, which relate to legislation where fees and charges are being changed to convenient euro amounts.

Reference No.	Title of Enactment and Provision	Description of Provision	IR£ Amount	Convenient € Amount
1.	Air Navigation and Transport Act, 1965 (Section 8) Regulations, 1993 (S.I. No. 323 of 1993). Matter in column (3) of Schedule.	Application fee for operating licenses with projected turnover of:— £1m or less. More than £1m but less than £5m. More than £5m.	£250 £500 £1,000	€310 €625 €1,250
2.	Building Control Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 496 of 1997). Fifth Schedule.	Application and other fees to local authority for: fire safety certificate — Agricultural Building — per m ² ; fire safety certificate — per m ² ; copies of an extract from building control register; submission of a commencement notice; fire safety certificate — Agricultural Building (minimum); fire safety certificate (minimum); relaxations from regulations (dwelling); relaxations from regulations (other buildings); maximum fee with a commencement notice; maximum fee with a Fire Safety Cert application; Restriction on refund in respect of; submission of a commencement notice; application for fire safety certificate. Application fee for Appeal to An Bord Pleanála.	65p £2.30 £10 £25 £52 £100 £100 £200 £3,000 £10,000 £25 £100 £200	80c €2.90 €12 €30 €65 €125 €125 €250 €3,800 €12,500 €30 €125 €250
3.	Building Societies Act, 1989 (No. 17 of 1989). Sections 50(6), 50(7)(b) and (c), 69 (1)(a), 71(2).	Maximum permissible shareholding thresholds for: (i) Voting rights at AGM. (ii) Nomination of a director. (iii) Election of a director. Maximum deposit that can be required of candidate for director. Minimum threshold for borrowing membership voting rights.	£100 £250 £500 £250 £500	€125 €310 €625 €310 €625
4.	Control of Bulls for Breeding (Permits) Regulations, 1986 (S.I. No. 333 of 1986). Regulation 5.	Bull permit application fee for a research organisation; bull beef production enterprise or a person, in respect of a bull which is entered or eligible to be entered in a herd book. Bull permit application fee for breeding in a small herd.	£10 £20	€12 €25
5.	Control of Dogs Regulations, 1998 (S.I. No. 442 of 1998). Article 10.	On the spot fines for offences under Section 27 of Control of Dogs Act, 1986.	£25	€30

Reference No.	Title of Enactment and Provision	Description of Provision	IR£ Amount	Convenient € Amount
6.	Credit Union Act, 1997 (Fees) Regulations, 1998 (S.I. No. 155 of 1998). Matter in column (3) opposite reference numbers 1, 3 and 5 in Part 1 of Schedule.	Photocopying handling fee where no. of pages exceeds 10 (research students and public authorities are exempt). Inspection of public file of a credit union section 101(1). Certification by or on behalf of registrar of any document or extract of any document.	10p £5 £20	10c €6 €25
7 & 8.	Electoral Act, 1992 (No. 23 of 1992). Section 47. Electoral Regulations, 1992 (S.I. No. 407 of 1992). Note 2 to Nomination Paper in Schedule.	Deposit for candidates in a Dáil election.	£300	€375
9.	European Communities (Vehicle Testing) Regulations, 1991 (S.I. No. 356 of 1991). Article 10(4) and Article 10(5).	Fees for replacement certificate of roadworthiness for light goods vehicle. Fee for certificate of roadworthiness for light goods vehicle. Fee for replacement certificate of road worthiness for heavy goods vehicle; vehicles used for the carriage of passengers with more than 8 seats, excluding the driver's seat, ambulances and goods trailers. Fee for certificate of roadworthiness for heavy goods vehicle; vehicles used for the carriage of passengers with more than 8 seats, excluding the driver's seat, ambulances and goods trailers.	£3 £5 £6 £11	€3 €6 €7 €13
10 & 11.	European Parliament Elections Act, 1997 (No. 2 of 1997). Section 13. European Parliament Elections (Forms) Regulations, 1998 (S.I. No. 415 of 1998). Note 2 to Form EP2 in Schedule.	Deposit by candidates at a European Election.	£1,000	€1,250

Reference No.	Title of Enactment and Provision	Description of Provision	IR£ Amount	Convenient € Amount
12.	Foreign Births Regulations, 1956 (S.I. No. 224 of 1956). Regulations 7, 8, 9, 12, 15 and 16.	Inspect Foreign Births Entry Book at Embassy or Consulate; Copy of particulars in columns 1-6 of entry in Foreign Births Entry Book; Inspect Foreign Births Register at Department of Foreign Affairs; Copy of particulars in columns 1-6 of entry in Foreign Births Register. Copy of entry in Foreign Births Entry Book; Copy of entry in Foreign Births Register. Registration in Foreign Births Entry Book of birth of persons under 18 years of age; Registration in Foreign Births Register of birth of person under 18 years of age. Registration in Foreign Births Entry Book of birth of person over 18 years of age; Registration in Foreign Births Register of birth of person over 18 years of age.	£2 £10 £32 £100	€2.50 €12 €40 €125
13.	Friendly Societies (Fees) Regulations, 1995 (S.I. No. 6 of 1995). Matter specified in column of fees opposite reference numbers 11, 12, 14, 17 and 18 in Part I of the Schedule.	Photocopying handling fee paid to Registrar of Friendly Societies. Inspection of a Society's file. Signature or seal of the Registrar to a document not chargeable with any other fee. Filing of notice of appointment of trustees. Filing of a Society's annual return.	10p £5 £21 £30 £50	10c €6 €25 €35 €60
14.	Industrial and Provident Societies (Fees) Regulations, 1995 (S.I. No. 4 of 1995). Matter specified in column of fees opposite reference numbers 9, 10, 12, 15 and 16 in Part I of Schedule.	Photocopying handling fee to Registrar of Friendly Societies. Inspection of a Society's file. Signature or seal of the Registrar to a document not chargeable with any other fee. Filing of a Society's annual return; filing of a society's triennial return.	10p £5 £21 £50	10c €6 €25 €60
15.	Intoxicating Liquor Act, 1988 (Age Card) Regulations, 1999 (S.I. No. 4 of 1999). Second Schedule.	Fee for the provision of an age card for persons who have attained 18 years of age, to confirm that they have attained the legal age for the purchase of intoxicating liquor.	£5	€6
16.	Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (Amendment) Act, 1984 (No. 15 of 1984). Section 3(1).	Issuing of a vesting certificate (in occupation). Arbitration (in occupation).	£26 £63	€30 €75
17.	Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No. 2) Act, 1978 (Fees) Order 1984 (S.I. No. 194 of 1984). Regulation 2.	Inspection of a register. Copy of an entry in a register. Issuing of a vesting certificate (not in occupation). Arbitration (not in occupation).	50p £2.60 £52 £105	60c €3 €65 €130

Reference No.	Title of Enactment and Provision	Description of Provision	IR£ Amount	Convenient € Amount
18.	Land Registration (Fees) Order, 1999 (S.I. No. 343 of 1999). Schedule.	Transfer on Sale Names/Townland Index Search. Inspection of folio, instrument or record. Sealed and certified copy folio. Official search rule 190 of the 1972 rules. Priority search rule 191 of 1972 rules. Search rule 196 of the 1972 rules. Fee for making any note or entry or providing any service. Application for registration of any other matter not specified. Land Certificate. Copy folio with file plan (sealed and certified). Copy of instrument, affidavit order or ruling. Fee lodged exceeds the amount chargeable. Application requiring the opening of a new folio. Copy of map showing rights of way or other special features. Attendance of Officer in court to produce documents (per day). Application for registration is refused, abandoned or withdrawn. Voluntary transfer. Transfer under Section 90 of Housing Act 1966. Application for registration of lease as a burden. Application for registration of transmission on death. Application for first registration. Application under Section 49 of the 1964 Act. Registration of Charge. First approval of Scheme Map. Approval of revision of Scheme Map where number of sites in scheme does not exceed 20. Approval of revision of Scheme Map where number of sites in scheme exceeds 20.	£100 £150 £200 £300 £400 £500 £2 £2 £5 £5 £5 £5 £5 £20 £20 £20 £20 £20 £50 £50 £50 £70 £70 £70 £70 £70 £70 £100 £250 £500 £1,000	€125 €190 €250 €375 €500 €625 €2.50 €2.50 €6 €6 €6 €6 €6 €25 €25 €25 €25 €25 €60 €60 €60 €85 €85 €85 €85 €85 €85 €125 €310 €625 €1,250
19.	Litter Pollution Regulations, 1999 (S.I. No. 359 of 1999). Article 3.	On-the-spot fine for prescribed litter offences.	£50	€60

Reference No.	Title of Enactment and Provision	Description of Provision	IR£ Amount	Convenient € Amount
20.	Local Authorities (Traffic Wardens) Act, 1975 (Section 3) (Offences) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 395 of 1997). Article 6 and Schedule.	Fine for parking offences other than those specified in Regulations. Fine for parking/stopping during a clearway period in a clearway or bus lane. Fine for non-display of motor tax disc.	£15 £20 £50	€19 €25 €60
21.	Local Elections Regulations, 1995 (S.I. No. 297 of 1995). Article 15 and Note 2 to Form of Nomination Paper at Part I of Schedule.	Deposit by candidate at election other than to Co. Council or Co. Borough. Deposit by candidate at election to Co. Council or Co. Borough.	£25 £50	€30 €60
22.	Registry of Deeds (Fees) Order, 1999 (S.I. No. 346 of 1999). Schedule.	Copy fee. Search fee. Fee for common search, continuation of common search, general search and other services. Fee for comparison, certificates of registration, negative search, continuation or closing of negative search, copies, entry of satisfaction of mortgage and inspection of original memorial or affidavit. Fee for registration of memorials and certificates of registration. Fee for attendance of officer.	50p £1 £5 £10 £35 £50	60c €1.25 €6 €12 €44 €60
23.	Road Traffic Act, 1961 (Section 103) (Offences) Regulations, 1999 (S.I. No. 12 of 1999). Article 5 and First Schedule.	Fine in respect of all other parking offences, not specified earlier in regulations. Fine for a variety of offences under regulation. Fine for non-display of insurance disc. Fine for maximum weights infringement. Fine for non-display of motor tax disc. Fine for exceeding speed limit. Fine for failing to stop or yield at signs. Fine for traffic light infringement.	£15 £20 £50 £50 £50 £50 £50 £50 £50	€19 €25 €60 €60 €60 €60 €60 €60 €60
24.	Road Traffic Act, 1994 (Section 41) Regulations, 1995 (S.I. No. 89 of 1995). Article 5(1).	Daily charge (after day one) for detention, removal and storage of a vehicle. Charge for the detention, removal and storage of a vehicle for one day.	£30 £100	€35 €125
25.	Road Traffic (Immobilisation of Vehicles) Regulations, 1998 (S.I. No. 247 of 1998). Article 5(1).	Charge for removal of immobilisation device.	£65	€80

Reference No.	Title of Enactment and Provision	Description of Provision	IR£ Amount	Convenient € Amount
26.	Road Traffic (Removal, Storage and Disposal of Vehicles) Regulations, 1983 (S.I. No. 91 of 1983). Article 7(1).	Charge for the storage of a vehicle (each day or part thereof).	£30	€35
		Charge for the removal of a vehicle.	£100	€125
27.	Road Vehicles (Registration & Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations, 1992 (S.I. No. 385 of 1992). Schedule 4 and Article 15(2).	Replacement licence.	£5	€6
		Replacement licensing certificate or registration book.	£10	€12
		Minimum limit for annual licence/refund.	£90	€114
28.	Road Vehicles (Registration & Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations, 1994 (S.I. No. 277 of 1994) Article 3.	Fee for supply of licensing particulars.	£5	€6
29.	Tour Operators (Licensing) Regulations, 1993 (S.I. No. 182 of 1993). Matter in column (3) of the Table to paragraph (a) of Regulation 10, and paragraphs (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) of Regulation 10.	Application fee for amendment of tour operators licence.	£122	€150
		Additional fee for tour operator or travel agent licence where a licence has not been held for two years prior to application.	£243	€300
		Additional fee for tour operators licence when application is received between one and two months before licence is required to commence.	£1,000	€1,250
		Additional fee for tour operators licence when application is received less than one month before licence is required to commence.	£2,000	€2,500
		Additional fee for tour operators licence where applicant has failed to submit audited financial statements.	£1,000	€1,250
		Application fees for tour operators licences which vary depending on licensable turnover.	£243 £486 £1,224 £1,712 £2,449 £6,179	€300 €600 €1,550 €2,150 €3,100 €7,800
30.	Trade Union (Fees) Regulations, 1995 (S.I. No. 5 of 1995). Matter specified in column of fees opposite reference numbers 1, 2, 5, 8 and 10 in Part I of Schedule.	Photocopying handling fee.	10p	10c
		Fee for certificate of registry of alteration of rules.	50p	60c
		Fee for certificate of registry of a trade union.	£1	€1.25
		Fee for authentication of a document by the Registrar.	£21	€25
		Fee for filing of a trade unions annual return.	£50	€60

Reference No.	Title of Enactment and Provision	Description of Provision	IR£ Amount	Convenient € Amount
31.	Travel Agents (Licensing) Regulations, 1993 (S.I. No. 183 of 1993). Regulation 10.	Application fee for amendment of travel agents licence. Application fee for travel agents licence and also additional fee to be paid where applicant has not held a tour operators or travel agents licence within two years prior to application. Additional fee to be paid where application is received between one and two months prior to required commencement of licence and also additional fee where applicant has failed to submit audited financial statements. Additional fee to be paid where application is received less than one month prior to required commencement date of licence.	£24 £243 £500 £1,000	€30 €300 €625 €1,250
32.	Valuation Appeal (Fees) Regulations, 1996 (S.I. No. 417 of 1996). Column (2) of Table.	Appeal fees which vary depending on the rateable valuation of the property.	£50 £100 £150 £225	€60 €125 €190 €285
33.	Valuation (Revisions and New Valuations) (Fees) Regulations, 1996 (S.I. No. 418 of 1996). Regulation 2.	Fee charged for an application to have a new property valued or for an existing rateable valuation to be revised.	£100	€125
34.	Valuation Tribunal (Fees) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 21 of 1997). Column (2) of Table.	Fees charged for appeals to the Valuation Tribunal against an appeal determination by the Commissioner of Valuation which vary depending on the rateable valuation of the property.	£75 £100 £200 £300	€95 €125 €250 €375
35.	Wireless Telegraphy (Business Radio Licence) Regulations, 1949 (S.I. No. 320 of 1949). Regulation 9.	Fee payable for issue and renewal of business radio licences.	£18	€22
36.	Wireless Telegraphy (Business Radio Licence) Regulations, 1957 (S.I. No. 181 of 1957). Regulation 7.	Fee payable for issue and renewal of a temporary business radio licence.	£10	€12
37.	Wireless Telegraphy (Community Repeater Licence) Regulations, 1988 (S.I. No. 83 of 1988). Regulations 4(2), 4(4) and 7(5).	Initial fee for processing application for a community repeater system licence. Fee to be paid for issuing a community repeater system licence. Fee for renewal of community repeater system licence.	£10 £500 £800	€12 €625 €1,000

Reference No.	Title of Enactment and Provision	Description of Provision	IR£ Amount	Convenient € Amount
38.	Wireless Telegraphy (GSM and TACS Mobile Telephony Licence) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 468 of 1997). Regulation 8.	Application and renewal fee for licence which relates to TACS mobile telephony service.	£2,500	€3,100
		Application and first renewal fee for GSM mobile telephony service licence.	£10,000	€12,500
		Fee for second and subsequent renewal of GSM mobile telephony service licence.	£20,000	€25,000
39.	Wireless Telegraphy (Television Programme Retransmission) Regulations, 1989 (S.I. No. 39 of 1989). Regulation 8.	Fee for licence to install, maintain, work and use a primary station for the retransmission of television programme services.	£20,000	€25,000

TABLE II

The following table brings together the information in Schedules 3 and 4 to the Bill which relate to legislation where upper limits and threshold values are being changed to convenient euro amounts. These thresholds apply to declarations of interests of various sorts, to actions required or enabled under law or are used for setting or assessing fees to be paid.

Reference No.	Title of Enactment and Provision	Description of Provision	IR£ Amount	Convenient € Amount
1.	Air Navigation and Transport Act, 1965 (Section 8) Regulations, 1993 (S.I. No. 323 of 1993). Matter in column (2) of Schedule.	Threshold levels for projected turnover which determine fee levels for operating licences.	£1,000,000 £5,000,000	€1,270,000 €6,350,000
2.	Civil Service Superannuation (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 (S.I. No. 274 of 1999).	Maximum amount which may be released without probate to the spouse of a deceased member of the Civil Service Superannuation Scheme.	£15,000	€20,000
3.	Criminal Justice Act, 1994. (No. 15 of 1994). Subsections (3)(b) and (7)(a) and (b) of section 32.	Money laundering thresholds in respect of:— Annual premium for life assurance. Single premium for life assurance. Bank deposits.	£700 £1,750 £10,000	€900 €2,300 €13,000
4.	Ethics in Public Office Act, 1995 (No. 22 of 1995). Section 15(1) and Second Schedule.	Threshold value for gifts which may need to be surrendered by Office Holders. Threshold values for registrable interests that are discloseable under the Act: gifts; property/services given below cost or free of charge; travel and accommodation given below cost or free of charge; remunerated trade or profession; contracts with public bodies; shares etc., holdings; land/property holdings.	£500 £500 £500 £500 £2,000 £5,000 £10,000 £10,000	€650 €650 €650 €650 €2,600 €6,500 €13,000 €13,000

Reference No.	Title of Enactment and Provision	Description of Provision	IR£ Amount	Convenient € Amount
5.	Land Registration (Fees) Order, 1999 (S.I. No. 343 of 1999). Schedule.	Value thresholds which determine fees for registration of a transfer or sale.	£10,000 £20,000 £40,000 £200,000 £300,000	€13,000 €26,000 €51,000 €255,000 €385,000
6.	Land Registration Rules, 2000 (S.I. No. 175 of 2000)	Where market value refers to maximum level of market value, purchase money or compensation paid for a property in relation to the modification of examination of title and application for first registration.	£250,000	€320,000
7.	Misuse of Drugs Act, 1977 (No. 12 of 1977). Section 15A (1)(b).	A person shall be guilty of an offence where they have in their possession controlled drugs to the value of £10,000 or more.	£10,000	€13,000
8.	Planning and Development Act, 2000. (No. 30 of 2000). Sections 147(7)(a) and 148(8)(a).	Threshold for declaration by members of certain interests.	£10,000	€13,000
9.	Proceeds of Crime Act, 1996. (No. 30 of 1996). Subsections (1)(b) and (3)(b) of section 2, subsections (1)(b) and (1)(II) of section 3 and subsection (1) of section 8.	Where property valued at more than this amount constitutes proceeds of crime, an interim order may be made by the courts to prevent disposing of or diminishing the value of the property.	£10,000	€13,000
10.	Tour Operators (Licensing) Regulations, 1993 (S.I. No. 182 of 1993). Matter in column (2) of Table to Regulation 10.	Threshold levels for licensable turnover which determine the application fee for a tour operators licence.	£500,000 £1,000,000 £3,000,000 £5,000,000 £10,000,000 £20,000,000	€635,000 €1,270,000 €3,810,000 €6,350,000 €12,700,000 €25,400,000