

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUSINESS AND BUSINESS SCHEDULE FOR

TUESDAY TO THURSDAY, 5 - 7 MARCH 2024

(AS AGREED AT ITS MEETING ON 29 FEBRUARY 2024)

Tuesday 5 March 2024 (2:00 p.m. - 10:37 p.m.)

Leaders' Questions (*Sinn Féin, Labour Party, People Before Profit-Solidarity, Regional Group*) 2.00 p.m. - 2.34 p.m. (34 mins)

Order of Business and Questions on Policy or Legislation 2.34 p.m. - 3.04 p.m. (30 mins)

Motion(s) without debate 3.04 p.m. - 3.05 p.m. (1 min)

- Motion *re* Proposed approval by Dáil Éireann of the terms of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation between the European Union and its Member States and the Kingdom of Thailand (*Dept of Foreign Affairs*)

- Motion *re* Proposed approval by Dáil Éireann of the terms of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States and Japan (*Dept of Foreign Affairs*)

Taoiseach's Questions 3.05 p.m. - 3.50 p.m. (45 mins)

Government Business 3.50 p.m. - 6.17 p.m. (2 hrs 27 mins)

- Statements on International Women's Day (*not to exceed 2 hrs 27 mins*) (*Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth*)

Private Members' Business (Sinn Féin) 6.17 p.m. - 8.19 p.m. (122 mins)

- Motion *re* Supporting People with Disabilities and Carers

P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Rural and Community Development 8.19 p.m. - 9.49 p.m. (90 mins)

Topical Issues 9.49 p.m. - 10.37 p.m. (48 mins)

Adjournment 10.37 p.m.

Wednesday 6 March 2024 (9:10 a.m. - 10:55 p.m.)

Topical Issues 9.10 a.m. - 9.58 a.m. (48 mins)

Private Members' Business (Labour Party) 9.58 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. (122 mins)

- Motion *re* Housing targets and Regulation

Leaders' Questions (*Sinn Féin, Labour Party, Regional Group, Independent Group*) 12.00 p.m. - 12.34 p.m. (34 mins)

Questions on Policy or Legislation 12.34 p.m. - 1.04 p.m. (30 mins)

Motion(s) without debate 1.04 p.m. - 1.05 p.m. (1 min)

- Motion *re* Report of the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach under Dáil Standing Order 133 on a Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing harmonised requirements in the internal market on transparency of interest representation carried out on behalf of third countries and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937, COM(2023)637 (*Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach*)

- Motion *re* Report of the Committee on Standing Orders and Dáil Reform entitled "Orders of Reference for Special Committee on Drugs Use"

SOS

1.05 p.m. - 2.05 p.m. (60 mins)

Government Business

2.05 p.m. - 10.25 p.m. (8 hrs 20 mins)

- Statements on the Irish Language to mark Seachtain na Gaeilge (not to exceed 1 hr 52 mins) (Dept of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media)
- Statements on Rare Diseases (not to exceed 57 mins) (Dept of Health)
- Forty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Agreement on a Unified Patent Court) Bill 2024 (Committee and remaining Stages) (to commence no earlier than 4 p.m. and to conclude within 60 minutes) (Dept of Enterprise, Trade and Employment)
- Motion *re* Statement for the Information of Voters in relation to the Forty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Agreement on a Unified Patent Court) Bill 2024 (without debate) (Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)
- European Arrest Warrant (Amendment) Bill 2022 (Amendments from the Seanad) (if not previously concluded, to adjourn after 60 mins) (Dept of Justice)
- Research and Innovation Bill 2024 (Report and Final Stages) (if not previously concluded, to adjourn after 2 hrs) (Dept of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science)
- Road Traffic Bill 2024 (Report and Final Stages) (if not previously concluded, to adjourn either at 10.19 p.m. or after 1 hr 30 mins, whichever is the later) (Dept of Transport)

Deferred Divisions

10.25 p.m. - 10.55 p.m. (30 mins)

Adjournment

10.55 p.m.

Thursday 7 March 2024 (9:00 a.m. - 7:19 p.m.)

P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Foreign Affairs

9.00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. (90 mins)

P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications

10.30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. (90 mins)

Leaders' Questions (Sinn Féin, Social Democrats, Regional Group, Rural Independent Group)

12.00 p.m. - 12.34 p.m. (34 mins)

Questions on Policy or Legislation

12.34 p.m. - 1.04 p.m. (30 mins)

SOS

1.04 p.m. - 1.44 p.m. (40 mins)

Government Business

1.44 p.m. - 5.16 p.m. (3 hrs 32 mins)

- Statements on Nature Restoration Law (not to exceed 3 hrs 32 mins) (Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)

Topical Issues

5.16 p.m. - 6.04 p.m. (48 mins)

Thursday evening business: Committee Report

6.04 p.m. - 7.19 p.m. (75 mins)

- Motion *re* Report entitled "Final Report of the Joint Committee on Autism"

Adjournment

7.19 p.m.

The proposed arrangements for the taking of business are as follows:

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUSINESS

Tuesday proposal no. 1 - Arrangements for business

- The ordinary routine of business as contained in Schedule 3 to Standing Orders shall be modified to the following extent:
 - (i) the Dáil may sit later than 10.32 p.m.; and
 - (ii) the time allotted to Government business shall be extended in accordance with the arrangements for the Statements on International Women's Day, with consequential effect on the commencement times for the items following in the ordinary routine of business, namely, private members' business, Parliamentary Questions to the Minister for Rural and Community Development, and topical issues

Tuesday proposal no. 2 - Motion *re* Proposed approval by Dáil Éireann of the terms of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation between the European Union and its Member States and the Kingdom of Thailand

- The proceedings on the Motion *re* Proposed approval by Dáil Éireann of the terms of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation between the European Union and its Member States and the Kingdom of Thailand shall be taken without debate

Tuesday proposal no. 3 - Motion *re* Proposed approval by Dáil Éireann of the terms of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States and Japan

- The proceedings on the Motion *re* Proposed approval by Dáil Éireann of the terms of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States and Japan shall be taken without debate

Tuesday proposal no. 4 - Statements on International Women's Day

- The Statements on International Women's Day shall not exceed 2 hours and 27 minutes and the following arrangements shall apply thereto:
 - (i) the arrangements for the statements, not including the Ministerial response, shall be in accordance with the arrangements agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, for 135 minutes, and Resolution of the Dáil of 20th September, 2023, providing for two minutes for non-aligned members;

- (ii) following the statements, a Minister or Minister of State shall be called upon to make a statement in reply which shall not exceed 10 minutes; and
- (iii) members may share time

Wednesday proposal no. 1 - Arrangements for business

- The ordinary routine of business as contained in Schedule 3 to Standing Orders shall be modified to the following extent:
 - (i) the Dáil may sit later than 9.30 p.m. and shall adjourn on the conclusion of the weekly division time, which may be taken later than 8.45 p.m., and shall in any event be taken on the adjournment of proceedings on the Report and Final Stages of the Road Traffic Bill 2024, or where those proceedings conclude before they must be interrupted, on the conclusion thereof;
 - (ii) in the event the Taoiseach is unable to attend for questions pursuant to Standing Order 46(1), the SOS pursuant to Standing Order 25(1) may take place earlier than 1.49 p.m., with consequential effect on the commencement time for Government business; and
 - (iii) the proceedings on the Motion *re* Statement for Information of Voters in relation to the Forty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Agreement on a Unified Patent Court) Bill 2024 shall be taken without debate immediately upon the conclusion of that Bill

Wednesday proposal no. 2 - Motion *re* Report of the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach under Dáil Standing Order 133 on a Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing harmonised requirements in the internal market on transparency of interest representation carried out on behalf of third countries and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937, COM(2023)637

- The proceedings on the Motion *re* Report of the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach under Dáil Standing Order 133 on a Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing harmonised requirements in the internal market on transparency of interest representation carried out on behalf of third countries and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937, COM(2023)637, shall be taken without debate

Wednesday proposal no. 3 - Motion *re* Report of the Committee on Standing Orders and Dáil Reform entitled "Orders of Reference for Special Committee on Drugs Use"

- The proceedings on the Motion *re* Report of the Committee on Standing Orders and Dáil Reform entitled "Orders of Reference for Special Committee on Drugs Use" shall be taken without debate

Wednesday proposal no. 4 - Statements on the Irish Language to mark Seachtain na Gaeilge

- The Statements on the Irish Language to mark Seachtain na Gaeilge shall not exceed 1 hour and 52 minutes and the following arrangements shall apply thereto:
 - (i) the arrangements for the statements, not including the Ministerial response, shall be in accordance with the arrangements agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, for 100 minutes, and Resolution of the Dáil of 20th September, 2023, providing for two minutes for non-aligned members;
 - (ii) following the statements, a Minister or Minister of State shall be called upon to make a statement in reply which shall not exceed 10 minutes; and
 - (iii) members may share time

Wednesday proposal no. 5 - Statements on Rare Diseases

- The Statements on Rare Diseases shall not exceed 57 minutes and the following arrangements shall apply thereto:
 - (i) the order of speaking and allocation of time shall be as follows:-
 - opening statement by a Minister or Minister of State - 10 minutes;
 - statement by a member of a Government party - 5 minutes
 - statements by representatives of Sinn Féin, the Labour Party, Social Democrats, People-Before-Profit-Solidarity, the Regional Group, the Rural Independent Group and the Independent Group - 5 minutes per party or group;
 - speeches by non-aligned members – 2 minutes; and
 - a speech in response by the Minister – 5 minutes; and
 - (ii) members may share time

Wednesday proposal no. 6 - Forty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Agreement on a Unified Patent Court) Bill 2024

- The proceedings on Committee and remaining Stages of the Forty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Agreement on a Unified Patent Court) Bill 2024 shall commence no earlier than 4 p.m. and shall, if not previously concluded, be brought to a conclusion after 60 minutes by one question which shall be put from the Chair and which shall, in relation to amendments, include only those set down or accepted by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Wednesday proposal no. 7 - European Arrest Warrant (Amendment) Bill 2022

- The proceedings on the amendments from the Seanad to the European Arrest Warrant (Amendment) Bill 2022 shall, if not previously concluded, be interrupted and stand adjourned after 1 hour, and shall not be resumed on Wednesday

Wednesday proposal no. 8 - Research and Innovation Bill 2024

- The proceedings on Report and Final Stages of the Research and Innovation Bill 2024 shall, if not previously concluded, be interrupted and stand adjourned after 2 hours, and shall not be resumed on Wednesday

Wednesday proposal no. 9 - Road Traffic Bill 2024

- The proceedings on Report and Final Stages of the Road Traffic Bill 2024 shall, if not previously concluded, be interrupted and stand adjourned either at 10.19 p.m. or after 1 hour and 30 minutes, whichever is the later, and shall not be resumed on Wednesday

Thursday proposal no. 1 - Arrangements for business

- (i) The ordinary routine of business as contained in Schedule 3 to Standing Orders shall be modified to the extent that topical issues may be taken earlier than 7.24 p.m. and shall in any event be taken on the conclusion of the Statements on Nature Restoration Law, and the Motion *re* Report entitled “Final Report of the Joint Committee on Autism” shall be taken on the conclusion of topical issues, with consequential effect on the time for the adjournment of the Dáil; and
(ii) the Dáil on its rising shall adjourn until 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 20th March 2024

Thursday proposal no. 2 - Statements on Nature Restoration Law

- The Statements on Nature Restoration Law shall not exceed 3 hours and 32 minutes and the following arrangements shall apply thereto:
 - (i) the arrangements for the statements, not including the Ministerial response, shall be in accordance with the arrangements agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, for 200 minutes, and Resolution of the Dáil of 20th September, 2023, providing for two minutes for non-aligned members;
 - (ii) following the statements, a Minister or Minister of State shall be called upon to make a statement in reply which shall not exceed 10 minutes; and
 - (iii) members may share time

Thursday proposal no. 3 - Motion *re* Report entitled "Final Report of the Joint Committee on Autism"

- The proceedings on the Motion *re* Report entitled "Final Report of the Joint Committee on Autism" shall be taken in Committee of the whole Dáil and Senator Micheál Carrigy may attend and be heard during the proceedings: Provided that the arrangements as provided for in Standing Order 102 shall apply to the proceedings

INDICATIVE BUSINESS

- Pre-European Council Statements

UPCOMING THURSDAY EVENING BUSINESS

11th April 2024: Motion *re* Report entitled "Report on the examination of the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly's Report on biodiversity loss" (*Committee on Environment and Climate Action*)

18th April 2024: Motion *re* Report on Offshore Renewable Energy (*Committee on Enterprise, Trade and Employment*)

25th April 2024: Motion *re* Report on Politically Exposed Persons (*Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach*)

2nd May 2024: Neighbour Disputes (Vegetation) Bill 2017 (Second Stage) (*Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh*)

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

1 March 2024