

# DÁIL ÉIREANN

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## AN COMHCHOISTE UM GHNÓTHAÍ AN AONTAIS EORPAIGH

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

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*Dé Céadaoin, 30 Meán Fómhair 2020*

*Wednesday, 30 September 2020*

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Tháinig an Comhchoiste le chéile ag 5.30 p.m.

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The Joint Committee met at 5.30 p.m.

Comhaltaí a bhí i láthair / Members present:

Teachtaí Dála / Deputies	Seanadóirí / Senators
John Brady,	Lisa Chambers,
Dara Calleary,	Regina Doherty,
Brendan Howlin,	Vincent P. Martin,
Ruairí Ó Murchú,	Michael McDowell.
Neale Richmond.	

Teachta / Deputy Joe McHugh sa Chathaoir / in the Chair.

## Business of Joint Committee

**Chairman:** Ba mhaith liom ar dtús báire fáilte is fiche a chur romhaibh chuig an gcoiste inniu agus go háirithe roimh na Seanadóirí agus na Teachtaí a bhuaigh bhur n-aitheantas agus bhur suíocháin den chéad uair i mbliana. Is léir go mbeidh clár tábhachtach romhainn, go deimhin, leis an tionchar suntasach atá bainte amach le Covid-19. Beidh bealach difriúil de dhíth agus táim ag dúil go mór leis an obair thábhachtach agus leis an gcomhoibriú tríd an gcoiste seo. Is é mo thuairime go bhfuil gá mór orainn leis an dualgas agus leis an bhfreagracht atá orainn agus táim tiomanta go mbeidh mé, tríd an ról seo, neamhspleách agus féaráilte le linn an ama atá ríomhainn.

I am delighted to have been given the honour to chair this committee. I want to note the Irish aspect and significance of our first language. In 2007, Irish became an officially recognised language of the European Union and the derogation will be lifted in January 2021, just couple of months from now. At any opportunity, we have to promote the use of our language. We have an enormous pool of people working in the translation service in Kildare Street, which is an incredible resource. Perhaps, through the clerk, we can promote that also through this committee.

Apologies have been received from Deputies Haughey, Harkin and Duffy and Senator Keogan. Deputy Harkin is running late as she is speaking on the Forestry (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2020 in the House.

## Election of Vice Chairman

**Chairman:** I call for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman.

**Deputy Neale Richmond:** I would like to nominate Deputy Howlin for the position of Vice Chairman.

**Deputy Dara Calleary:** I second that.

**Chairman:** I thank Deputy Richmond for making the nomination and Deputy Calleary for seconding it. Are there other nominations?

**Deputy John Brady:** I would like to nominate Deputy Ruairí Ó Murchú.

**Chairman:** We have had two nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. We will record a voice vote for each nomination in the order in which they were made.

Question, "That Deputy Howlin be elected Vice Chairman of the committee", put and declared carried.

**Chairman:** Comhghairdeas to Deputy Howlin. We will now go into private session.

The committee went into private session at 5.39 p.m. and adjourned at 6.05 p.m. until 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 7 October 2020.