

*Dé Máirt, 4 Nollaig, 2007
Tuesday, 4th December, 2007*

2.30 p.m.

**GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

Fógra i dtaobh leasú ar Thairiscint : Notice of Amendment to Motion

19. “That Dáil Éireann,

notes that:

- the competitiveness of the Irish economy has weakened in recent years, as evidenced by our fall of 17 places since 2000 in the Global Competitiveness Report;
- growth rates in Irish exports have fallen below peer countries in recent years and our share of global trade has declined each year since 2002;
- Irish productivity growth has been below the OECD average since 2003;
- high inflation in pay and non-pay costs is undermining Irish cost competitiveness; and
- despite high levels of spending, Ireland’s rankings for the quality of our infrastructure, particularly for transport, energy and broadband communications, have not improved significantly since 2000;

is concerned that our investment levels in research and development remain well behind the EU and OECD averages and the Lisbon target;

believes that decisive and sound economic management is now required to halt Ireland’s diminishing competitiveness;

calls on the Government to agree:

- to commit to eliminating the gap between Irish and Eurozone inflation by bringing Irish inflation to 2% or lower for 2008 and beyond;
- to take the necessary actions on regulatory reform, public sector pay and taxation to ensure that this target is achieved;
- to implement the recommendations of the Business Regulation Forum in order to improve Irish competitiveness;
- to introduce the necessary reforms to ensure swifter delivery, better value for money and more service competition to properly develop Ireland’s national infrastructure, particularly in communications and transport; and

- to promote the creation of a life-long learning culture in addition to developing better-performing higher level educational institutions.” — *Leo Varadkar, Enda Kenny, Bernard Allen, James Bannon, Seán Barrett, Pat Breen, Richard Bruton, Ulick Burke, Catherine Byrne, Joe Carey, Deirdre Clune, Paul Connaughton, Noel J. Coonan, Simon Coveney, Seymour Crawford, Michael Creed, Lucinda Creighton, Michael D'Arcy, John Deasy, Jimmy Deenihan, Andrew Doyle, Bernard J. Durkan, Damien English, Olwyn Enright, Frank Feighan, Charles Flanagan, Terence Flanagan, Tom Hayes, Brian Hayes, Phil Hogan, Paul Kehoe, Pádraic McCormack, Shane McEntee, Dinny McGinley, Joe McHugh, Olivia Mitchell, Denis Naughten, Dan Neville, Michael Noonan, Kieran O'Donnell, Fergus O'Dowd, Jim O'Keeffe, John O'Mahony, John Perry, James Reilly, Michael Ring, Alan Shatter, Tom Sheahan, P. J. Sheehan, David Stanton, Billy Timmins.*

Leasú:

Amendment:

1. To delete all words after "Dáil Éireann" and substitute the following:

- “— commends the Government on the successful management of the economy which has placed Ireland in 3rd place globally in terms of job creation for our population size. Ireland is 8th in the world in terms of ease of doing business and is in the top five for the strength of our education and research system;
- acknowledges that this performance has ensured rising living standards and improved quality of life for our citizens;
- supports in particular the continuing strong performance in employment creation, solid management of the public finances, investment in infrastructure in the context of the National Development Plan and rate of inward investment;
- notes the number of initiatives taken by Government to strengthen national competitiveness and which will underpin future economic growth including the implementation of the recommendations of the Small Business Forum, the Better Regulation Forum, the Expert Group on Future Skills, and the Enterprise Strategy Group, the High Level Group on Manufacturing;
- recognises the Government’s commitment to tackling inflation in areas where it has direct influence;
- supports the Government’s commitment to make Ireland a leading knowledge and innovation economy and the recent achievement of the Strategy for Science technology and Innovation which will strengthen further our performance taking into account the emergence of competition from the new and emerging economies including India and China; and
- welcomes the reports of the National Competitiveness Council which recognise Ireland’s remarkable economic progress over the past 15 years that has given us the resources to further enhance and strengthen national competitiveness.” — *An tAire Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta.*