

*(Supplementary Order Paper)*

76

**DÁIL ÉIREANN**

*Dé Máirt, 4 Samhain, 2008*  
*Tuesday, 4th November, 2008*

2.30 p.m.

---

**GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA**  
**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

*Fógra i dtaobh leasú ar Thairscint : Notice of Amendment to Motion*

44. "That Dáil Éireann:

- notes that the number of people seeking training programmes will rise rapidly as a consequence of:
  - the numbers on the live register increasing by nearly 50% over the past twelve months; and
  - the projected 8% unemployment rate for 2009;
- notes that the standardised unemployment rate is at a nine year high with unemployment in Ireland now higher than in the United States, Britain, Japan, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Poland, Singapore and South Korea, among others; and
- calls on Government to:
  - restructure publicly funded training programmes to make training provision more responsive to a rapidly changing labour market and economy;
  - conduct a comprehensive expenditure audit of FÁS to ensure that the taxpayer's substantial investment is getting best value for money;
  - consider the needs of small and medium sized businesses when developing and promoting training services; and
  - change the eligibility criteria for the back to education allowance to open up access to further education for the unemployed." — *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, Brian Hayes, Tom 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*

P.T.O.

*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:

“recognises:

- the increase in the number of people signing on the live register; and
- that the Government has taken early action to address the deterioration in economic and fiscal prospects by introducing the 2009 budget early;

supports the Government in:

- stabilising the financial services sector so that Irish enterprises, small, medium and large, have improved access to funds, thereby protecting jobs and Irish economic growth;
- its management of the economy and employment market to date in challenging global circumstances, which means that Ireland meets the current challenges from a strong position with over 640,000 jobs having been created over the last eleven years and over 2.1 million in employment;
- the measures it is putting in place to ensure that those who become unemployed are assisted with employment services and training programmes to help them return to employment;
- the retraining of those previously employed in the construction sector;
- the additional resources being provided from the National Training Fund for training those who become unemployed, including the measures being taken to help apprentices to complete their training despite the current conditions in the construction sector;
- the strong successes that have been achieved in attracting foreign direct investment to Ireland;
- the substantial support given to community employment projects, which give people employment experience and assist in their return to the open labour market;
- the continued training and upskilling of the workforce in line with the National Skills Strategy by various agencies including FÁS and Skillnets;
- the work of the County and City Enterprise Boards who have a clearly defined role as the principal deliverers of State support to the micro-enterprise sector in Ireland and who deliver targeted valuable assistance, both financial and non-financial, to business start-ups with good growth and employment potential;

and acknowledges that:

- the Comptroller and Auditor General has acceded to the Tánaiste’s request to review certain activities in FÁS;
- the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has begun a review of labour market programmes with a focus on their efficiency and effectiveness;
- the FÁS One Step Up Programme and the Skillnets Training Networks Programme include a particular focus on being responsive to the needs of small and medium sized enterprises;
- the Management Development Council is currently reviewing the appropriateness of available training for owner/managers in the SME sector; and

- the conditions for the back to education allowance have been amended to provide immediate access to the scheme for people who are awarded statutory redundancy and have established an entitlement to a social welfare payment and notes the increased participation in this scheme.” — *An Tánaiste agus Aire Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta.*