

Dé Máirt, 25 Samhain, 2008
Tuesday, 25th November, 2008

2.30 p.m.

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

57. “That Dáil Éireann:

- seriously concerned at the crisis situation now facing many small and medium sized enterprises arising from the credit famine and which is contributing very significantly to the massive increase in unemployment levels;
- condemns the refusal of the banks to make available the normal credit streams which are the lifeblood of such companies;
- deplores the failure of the Government to either ensure the banks make credit available or to provide alternative sources of credit;
- expresses its further concern that failure to take urgent action will result in the collapse of many such companies within weeks and a further serious increase in unemployment;
- calls on the Government to:
 - establish a Small Business Operational Fund to ensure that credit streams are made available to small and medium sized firms, drawing on the €15billion Small Business Operational Fund established in September by the European Investment Bank, which Irish banks have so far refused to access;
 - assist such firms by ensuring that Government departments and agencies settle their bills within ten days, rather than the current 30 days;
 - establish a monitoring group made up of representatives of the Government, small and medium sized enterprises and the banks to monitor the lending practices of the financial institutions; and
 - strengthen the role of the County Enterprise Boards and, by removing the limitation on the type of enterprises the Boards can support and raising the limit on the number of jobs, they can create above the current figure of ten, as well as a significant increase in Measure 1 funding to maximise their potential for job creation.” — *Willie Penrose, Eamon Gilmore, Emmet Stagg, Joan Burton, Thomas P. Broughan, Joe Costello, Michael D. Higgins, Brendan Howlin, Ciarán Lynch, Kathleen Lynch, Liz McManus, Brian O'Shea, Jan O'Sullivan, Ruairí Quinn, Pat Rabbitte, Seán Sherlock, Róisín Shortall, Joanna Tuffy, Mary Upton, Jack Wall.*

Leasú

Amendment:

I. To delete all words after “Dáil Éireann” and substitute the following:

“recognises:

- that the global banking crisis is impacting on economic activity across the global and Irish economies;
- that small and medium sized enterprises are experiencing a more challenging environment for business;
- the importance of ensuring that credit, including short term credit such as overdrafts and current account facilities are made available to small and medium-sized businesses;
- that the purpose of the EIB facility for SMEs is to provide medium to long-term funding for investment projects through the commercial banks; and
- that the Government has taken decisive action to stabilise the banking sector to maintain credit facilities across business sector including SMEs;

commends the Government for:

- bringing forward the Credit Institutions (Financial Support) Scheme which:
 - secured the stability of the major domestic credit institutions and the Irish financial system overall in the face of unprecedented international financial turbulence;
 - promotes confidence in the economy by ensuring the stability and sustainability of our financial system;
 - promotes through the realisation of the objectives of the Scheme sustainable lending practices and the appropriate availability of credit for the enterprise sector of the economy; and
 - facilitates the structured dialogue initiated with the covered institutions to ensure that the Irish banking system continues to be able to access liquidity and funding to meet the credit needs of the economy;
- requesting the banks to avail of the facility for medium to long-term lending to SMEs from the EIB;
- the very considerable progress made on the implementation of the recommendations of the *Report of the Small Business Forum* to assist small business;
- its Decision of March 2008 to set a 25% target for the reduction of administrative burdens on business arising from domestic legislation, to be achieved by 2012;
- its schemes and supports already in place to assist SMEs through the enterprise development agencies;
- the very significant 16% increase in the capital allocation for 2009 to County and City Enterprise Boards in recognition of the importance of the micro-enterprise sector to our economic development; and

expresses its confidence in the Government to take further appropriate, concrete measures to assist small and medium-sized business through the current difficult period.” — *An tAire Airgeadais*.