

*Dé Máirt, 28 Aibreán, 2009*  
*Tuesday, 28th April, 2009*

2.30 p.m.

---

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

*Fógraí i dtaobh leasuithe ar Thairiscint : Notice of amendments to Motion*

**68.** “That Dáil Éireann:

- welcomes the publication of ambitious, radical and achievable proposals from the opposition for investment in key infrastructure needed for future economic growth and job creation, achieved through a new and restructured portfolio of State companies;
- recognises that the State faces an extremely difficult economic future and that immediate action is required to stabilise the national finances, restore competitiveness and to create new employment;
- recognises that Ireland requires urgent and unprecedented investment in new infrastructure in the areas of communications, energy, transport and water services to restore Irish competitiveness and to create a new economy that is capable of thriving in the 21st century;
- acknowledges that an economic stimulus package is needed not only to create immediate short term jobs but to lay the foundations for future sustainable employment; and
- recognises also, the dire current financial position of the national Exchequer and the need for creative new ways to raise finance for the investment required to fund the substantial stimulus program needed for economic development;

calls on the Government to:

- implement a multi-billion euro modern infrastructure stimulus package and building programme to drive investment in areas of critical national importance such as next generation broadband, renewable and bio-energy projects, electric grid construction, water treatment and supply and electric transport infrastructure;
- drive this investment through the creation of new and existing State companies;
- create a new State industrial holding company, the New Economy and Recovery Authority (NewERA), to co-ordinate, restructure and finance new and existing State companies in the best strategic interests of the Irish people in order to develop the most competitive economy in Europe;

- finance this investment programme through funding from the National Pensions Reserve Fund, borrowings from the European Investment Bank and a public bond, with a possibility of non-critical State assets being sold at a future date to replenish the National Pensions Reserve Fund;
- reduce current and future State borrowing by moving planned infrastructural investment expenditure away from direct Government expenditure and into State companies that will seek a commercial rate of return through competitive charges for the use of new infrastructure;
- implement this investment programme and create up to 100,000 construction, engineering, project management and planning and research jobs over the next four years in addition to creating the conditions for future employment and economic growth; and
- immediately open a real and constructive dialogue with the opposition on how best to proceed with developing the Irish economy via investment in much needed new infrastructure.” — *Simon Coveney, 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, 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 O'Keeffe, John O'Mahony, John Perry, James Reilly, Michael Ring, Alan Shatter, Tom Sheahan, P. J. Sheehan, David Stanton, Billy Timmins, Leo Varadkar.*

*Leasuithe:*

*Amendments:*

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

“commends the very substantial investment in infrastructure the Government has already made under the NDP; and

notes in particular the enormous progress made by the Government in enhancing our national road infrastructure and in developing our public transport networks and infrastructure;

notes and commends:

- the Government’s actions over the last 10 months to stabilise our public finances, the cumulative effect of which has been to rein in the deficit from a probable 15% to 10.75% of GDP;
- the Government’s commitment to supporting the financial system in Ireland since the global financial crisis began last Autumn and further commends the Government for its decisions to establish a National Asset Management Agency to clean up the banks’ balance sheets and enable them to resume lending to the real economy;
- the Government’s initiative in entering into discussions with the pension industry to seek its participation in the financing of public infrastructure projects;
- the Government’s commitment to maintaining a pro-enterprise and competitive taxation system, specifically the enhancement in the October budget of our R&D tax credit regime and our introduction of a scheme of tax relief for the acquisition of intangible assets, including intellectual property with a view to attracting high quality employment to this economy;

- the Government’s investment in our enterprise infrastructure and the Government’s commitment to investing in building a world class science, innovation and technology sector in Ireland;
- the Government’s substantial investment in our education infrastructure, particularly primary and secondary schools but also our higher education sector;
- the €30 billion investment plans from our state companies involved in the energy sector and the resulting 3,700 jobs that the ESB recently announced;
- the planned €600 million investment by EirGrid in a new East-West Interconnector and the €4 billion development plans that the company has set out in it’s ‘Grid 25’ strategy;
- the additional funding allocated to the Home Energy Saving Scheme and other energy insulation scheme in our latest budget and the estimated 4,000 jobs that will result from these stimulus measures;
- the recent Memorandum of Understanding that the Government signed with the Renault and Nissan motor companies and the ESB, and the opportunity this affords Ireland to become one of the leading countries in the world for the rollout of sustainable transport systems;
- the Government’s substantial investment in enhancing our environmental services infrastructure which will not only support future business investment but also enhance the environment we live in; and
- the Government’s very significant and ongoing investment in social infrastructure, particularly in regard to housing and our health services;

notes:

- the increase in broadband provision from 500,000 households in early 2007 to 1.2 million households today; this uptake is supported by an estimated €770 million annual investment that has been spent by companies in the competitive marketplace in recent years; and
- the ongoing investment by the State in rural broadband infrastructure through the National Broadband Scheme, our schools broadband scheme and the range of measures including a One-Stop Shop to access state-owned fibre ducting as set out in the Government’s Next Generation Broadband policy paper;

notes with approval the Government’s very substantial capital investment programme from 2009, notwithstanding the severe budgetary challenges that face us; and

invites the Government to continue to invest as planned in those infrastructure priorities that will ensure economic recovery far better than other untested, un-costed and undeveloped proposals.” — *An tAire Airgeadais*.

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

- “— notes that even after a 15 year economic boom, Irish infrastructure lags far behind that of our European neighbours;
- recognises that this infrastructure deficit hinders Irish competitiveness, attractiveness as a location for inward investment and prospects for economic recovery;
- recognises that the massive structural deficit in the public finances limits the ability of the Exchequer to directly fund capital investment; and
- recognises that Ireland’s jobs crisis continues unabated and the potential for sustained capital investment to create jobs;

P.T.O.

calls on the Government to:

- introduce a new National Development Plan (NDP) which prioritises those highly labour intensive projects which are advanced to the point of being ‘shovel ready’;
- put in place measures to greatly improve management of the capital programme and of individual projects;
- maximise value-for-money in the capital programme by availing of falling tender prices in the construction and civil engineering sector;
- explore innovative possibilities for maintaining high rates of capital investment to remove Ireland’s remaining infrastructure deficit, restore competitiveness and keep people gainfully employed; and
- establish a National Development Bank (NDB) on a commercial, semi-state basis, with a mandate aligned to the public interest, to fund and deliver key infrastructure projects.” — *Joan Burton, Eamon Gilmore, Emmet Stagg, Thomas P. Broughan, Joe Costello, Michael D. Higgins, Brendan Howlin, Ciarán Lynch, Kathleen Lynch, Liz McManus, Brian O'Shea, Jan O'Sullivan, Willie Penrose, Ruairí Quinn, Pat Rabbitte, Seán Sherlock, Róisín Shortall, Joanna Tuffy, Mary Upton, Jack Wall.*