

*Dé Máirt, 10 Samhain, 2009*  
*Tuesday, 10th November, 2009*

2.30 p.m.

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

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

75. “That Dáil Éireann:

notes that:

- CIÉ has received and spent €6.23 billion of taxpayers’ money since 1997;
- the National Roads Authority (NRA) has received and spent over €13 billion of taxpayers’ money since 2000;

is deeply alarmed that CIÉ are not subject to any real accountability or transparency mechanisms including:

- the Oireachtas Public Accounts Committee;
- Comptroller and Auditor General audits and investigations;
- Oireachtas oversight as Ministers refuse to be held accountable or answer questions; and
- the Freedom of Information Act;

is deeply concerned over the lack of policy and Exchequer funding accountability and oversight in the NRA as Ministers refuse to be held accountable to the Oireachtas;

acknowledges that these problems extend to other agencies and companies across Government;

considers these facts lead to an unjustified democratic deficit at the heart of Government; and

calls on the Government to:

- strengthen democracy and bring about greater transparency in Government by introducing a proper system of parliamentary spending oversight for CIÉ and the NRA and also for other agencies and semi-State companies in receipt of billions of taxpayers money;
- ensure the financial budgeting, procurement and accounting processes used by government agencies and companies become more accountable to the Oireachtas; and
- bring CIÉ within the scope of Freedom of Information and under the remit of the Ombudsman’s Office and the Comptroller and Auditor General.” — *Fergus O’Dowd*,

*Enda Kenny, Richard Bruton, Bernard Allen, James Bannon, Seán Barrett, Pat Breen, 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, George Lee, Pádraic McCormack, Shane McEntee, Dinny McGinley, Joe McHugh, Olivia Mitchell, Denis Naughten, Dan Neville, Michael Noonan, Kieran O'Donnell, 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*

*Leasú:*

*Amendment:*

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

- “ — welcomes the sustained commitment of the Government under Transport 21 and earlier transport investment programmes to upgrading transport infrastructure and services and the good results obtained from this investment including reduced journey times for road passenger and freight traffic and more, higher quality public transport services;
- welcomes in particular the completion of major road and public transport projects including the completion of two light rail lines in Dublin; the transformation of the Irish Rail rolling stock fleet with the acquisition of modern train sets; and the transformation of the national road infrastructure, particularly the progress being made towards the completion of the motorway network on the major interurban routes;
- commends the comprehensive arrangements in place for appraising, approving and monitoring transport projects under Transport 21 which includes publication of detailed information in an annual report and a dedicated website;
- notes the positive assessments of the Value for Money reviews completed on the annual subvention paid to CIÉ (2006) and on the 2nd Railway Safety Investment Programme (2008);
- notes that a cost and efficiency review of Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann was completed in early 2009 and is being implemented;
- further notes the comprehensive arrangements in place as required by their establishing legislation and the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies to ensure the accountability of the NRA and CIÉ to Government and the Oireachtas including requirements relating to annual reports and accounts, half-yearly accounts, and certification of compliance with requirements of Code of Practice; and
- acknowledges that both the NRA and CIÉ appear regularly before the relevant Oireachtas Committee to account for the discharge of their functions.” — *An tAire Iompair.*