

Dé Máirt, 30 Márta, 2010
Tuesday, 30th March, 2010

2.30 p.m.

I dTOSACH GNÓ PHOIBLÍ
AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Fógra Tairisceanna : Notices of Motions

a8. “Go ndéanann Dáil Éireann:

That Dáil Éireann:

- a thabhairt dá haire go ndearna an Rialtas beart ceannasach rathúil chun dul i ngleic le fadhbanna maoinithe i gcóras airgeadais na hÉireann trí na Scéimeanna Ráthaíochta Banc a thabhairt isteach agus chun na hiasachtaí is priaclaí a bhaint de chláir chomhardaithe na bhforas rannpháirteach trí phróiseas GNBS, rud a dtacaíonn an Ciste Airgeadaíochta Idirnáisiúnta, an Eagraíocht um Chomhar agus Forbairt Eacnamaíochta, an Banc Ceannais Eorpach agus Coimisiún na hEorpa leis;
 - a dhearbhu go bhfuil córas baincúireachta feidhmitheach a bhfuil muinín ag taisceoirí, ag margáí idirnáisiúnta agus ag an bpobal i gcoitinne as ag teastáil ó gheilleagar na hÉireann d’fhonn tairbhe a bhaint as an téarnamh eacnamaíoch domhanda;
 - tacaíocht a thabhairt don Rialtas sna bearta atá á bhfógairt aige inniu maidir le céim dheireanach próiseas cobhsaíochta an chórais baincúireachta;
 - tacaíocht a thabhairt don Rialtas sna bearta atá á ndéanamh aige chun a chinntiú go ndéanfaidh gach foras atá rannpháirteach sa phróiseas GNBS caighdeán chaipitil nua an Rialtóra Airgeadais a chomhlíonadh faoi dheireadh 2010; agus
- notes that the Government has taken bold and successful action to address funding problems in the Irish financial system through the introduction of the Bank Guarantee Schemes and to remove the riskiest loans from the balance sheets of the participating institutions through the NAMA process, which has the support of the IMF, the OECD, the ECB and the European Commission;
 - affirms that the Irish economy needs a functioning banking system that enjoys the trust of depositors, international markets and the community at large in order to benefit from the global economic recovery;
 - supports the Government in the measures it is announcing today for the final phase of the stabilisation process of the banking system;
 - supports the Government in the actions it is taking to ensure that each participating institution in the NAMA process will meet the Financial Regulator’s new capital standards by the end of 2010; and

- tacaíocht a thabhairt do chur chuige struchtúrtha tomhaiste an Rialtais maidir leis na saincheisteanna a fhearann ar an earnáil airgeadais i gcoitinne, arb é an bealach is fearr é chun leasanna na hearnála airgeadais agus leasanna an gheilleagair atá ag téarnamh a áirithiú agus aird ag an Rialtas ar cheanglais an Aontais Eorpaigh.
- supports the Government’s structured and measured approach to the issues facing the financial sector in general, which represents the best way to secure its interests and those of the recovering economy while keeping in mind the requirements of the EU.”

—*An tAire Airgeadais.*

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

72. “That Dáil Éireann:

deplores:

- the manner in which the Government has withdrawn educational supports from schools in the middle of a school year, without adequate consultation with schools or parents and the negative impact this has had on special needs children being taught in mainstream and special schools; and
- the Government’s failure to implement the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004;

considering:

- the Government review has been fundamentally flawed from the beginning as it has not incorporated an independent appeals mechanism for parents and schools; and
- the Government decision to abolish over 100 special needs classes last year has been recently called into question by expert research on special education published by the National Council for Special Education;

calls on the Government to:

- freeze the current review of Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) in schools;
- publish the National Council for Special Education’s report on this issue without further delay;
- implement the relevant sections of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 to give the independent Special Education Appeals Board the power to consider appeals of decisions taken by the Government review, effectively allowing a look back at decisions that have been taken to date;
- review the Special Education Review Committee criteria for the allocation of SNAs in schools, which dates from 1993;
- review the role of the SNA in schools in light of the experience of schools; and
- immediately publish a costed multi-annual plan for the implementation of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 as committed to in the Renewed Programme for Government.” — *Brian Hayes, 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, 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'Keefe, 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 words after “Dáil Éireann” and substitute the following:

“recognising that:

- there has been a significant enhancement by this Government of resources dedicated to achieving better outcomes for children with special educational needs;
- there has been no alteration to the criteria governing the allocation of Special Needs Assistants (SNAs);
- under the current criteria, the number of SNA posts has increased from fewer than 1,500 in 2000 to over 10,000 in 2010;
- there are over 8,600 resource and learning support teachers in our schools;
- in total, there are over 20,000 adults supporting children with special educational needs in our schools;
- investment in educational supports for special needs is now over €1 billion;
- the policy of inclusion of students with special educational needs in mainstream schools is recognised internationally as desirable and is supported in national legislation and in statements, reports and conventions that have emanated from such international bodies as the United Nations and the Council of Europe;
- the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Education and Science has facilitated a recent exchange of views and information on the subject of SNA allocations; and
- improved collaboration between the education and health sectors has been prioritised, with the appointment of a Minister of State with that specific responsibility;

commends the Government’s determination, in a difficult economic environment with many competing demands for funding, to continue to prioritise investment for children with special educational needs by:

- continuing to implement its long-standing policy of allocating teachers and SNAs to mainstream and special schools as required;
- funding the provision of expert support, professional development and training opportunities in special education for principals, class and subject teachers, special class teachers, learning support and resource teachers and SNAs;
- increasing the number of Educational Psychologists to provide support for every school in the country;
- enhancing the capacity of the National Council for Special Education to co-ordinate the provision of services to children with special educational needs; and

in accordance with the Renewed Programme for Government commits to the development of, in consultation with stakeholders, a costed multi-annual plan to implement some priority aspects of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 focussing on measurable, practical progress in education and health services for children with special needs.”

— *An Tánaiste agus Aire Oideachas agus Eolaíochta.*