

*Dé Céadaoin, 4 Márta, 2009*  
*Wednesday, 4th March, 2009*

10.30 a.m.

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RIAR NA hOIBRE  
*Order Paper*

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GNÓ POIBLÍ  
*Public Business*

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1. (l) An Bille Uchtála 2009 — An Coiste.  
 (a) Adoption Bill 2009 — Committee.
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*Tairiscint:*  
*Motion:*

2. “Go mbeartaíonn Seanad Éireann go leanfaidh alt 17A (a cuireadh isteach le halt 2(1) den Acht um Ghalair Ainmhithe (Leasú) 2001 (Uimh. 3 de 2001)) den Acht um Ghalair Ainmhithe 1966 (Uimh. 6 de 1966) i bhfeidhm ar feadh na tréimhse dar críoch an 8 Márta, 2010.

That Seanad Éireann resolves that section 17A (inserted by section 2(1) of the Diseases of Animals (Amendment) Act 2001 (No. 3 of 2001)) of the Diseases of Animals Act 1966 (No. 6 of 1966) shall continue in force for the period ending on 8th March, 2010.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

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3. An Bille Cuanta (Leasú) 2008 — An Tuarascáil.  
 Harbours (Amendment) Bill 2008 — Report Stage.
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4. An Bille Cróinéirí 2007 — An Coiste.  
 Coroners Bill 2007 — Committee.
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5. Bille na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) 2005 — An Dara Céim.  
 Official Languages (Amendment) Bill 2005 — Second Stage.  
 —*Senators Joe O’Toole, Paul Coghlan, David Norris.*
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6. An Bille um Chosaint Coigiltis Comhair Creidmheasa 2008 — An Dara Céim.  
 Credit Union Savings Protection Bill 2008 — Second Stage.  
 —*Senators Joe O’Toole, David Norris, Feargal Quinn, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik, Rónán Mullen.*
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7. An Bille um Chumas Meabhrach agus Caomhnóireacht 2008 — An Dara Céim.  
 Mental Capacity and Guardianship Bill 2008 — Second Stage.  
 —*Senators Joe O’Toole, David Norris, Feargal Quinn, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik.*
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- 8.** An Bille um Chosaint Tomhaltóirí (Leasú) 2008 — An Dara Céim.  
Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill 2008 — Second Stage.  
—*Senators Brendan Ryan, Alex White, Dominic Hannigan, Alan Kelly, Michael  
McCarthy, Phil Prendergast.*
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- 9.** An Bille um Dhliteanas Sibhialta (Leasú) (Uimh. 2) 2008 — An Dara Céim.  
Civil Liability (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2008 — Second Stage.  
—*Senators Eugene Regan, Frances Fitzgerald, Maurice Cummins.*
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*Bille (atógáil) (0.03 n. fágtha):*

*Bill (resumed) (0.03 m. remaining):*

- 10.** An Bille um Chosaint Aeráide 2007 — An Dara Céim (*atógáil*).  
Climate Protection Bill 2007 — Second Stage (*resumed*).  
—*Senators Ivana Bacik, Joe O'Toole, Shane Ross, David Norris, Feargal Quinn.*
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*Bille (atógáil) (0.03 n. fágtha):*

*Bill (resumed) (0.03 m. remaining):*

- 11.** An Bille Meabhair-Shláinte (Bearta Ainneonacha) (Leasú) 2008 — An Dara Céim  
(*atógáil*).  
Mental Health (Involuntary Procedures) (Amendment) Bill 2008 — Second Stage  
(*resumed*).  
—*Senators Dan Boyle, Déirdre de Búrca, David Norris.*
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*Bille (atógáil) (0.03 n. fágtha):*

*Bill (resumed) (0.03 m. remaining):*

- 12.** An Bille um Orgáin de chuid Chorp an Duine agus Fíocháin Dhaonna 2008 — An  
Dara Céim (*atógáil*).  
Human Body Organs and Human Tissue Bill 2008 — Second Stage (*resumed*).  
—*Senator Feargal Quinn.*
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*Bille (atógáil) (0.03 n. fágtha):*

*Bill (resumed) (0.03 m. remaining):*

- 13.** An Bille um Thaighde Gaschille (Suthanna Daonna a Chosaint) 2008 — An Dara  
Céim. (*atógáil*).  
Stem-Cell Research (Protection of Human Embryos) Bill 2008 — Second Stage.  
(*resumed*).  
—*Senators Rónán Mullen, Jim Walsh, John Hanafin.*
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*Tíolactha:*

*Presented:*

- 14.** An Bille um Príobháideacht 2006 — Ordú don Dara Céim.  
Privacy Bill 2006 — Order for Second Stage.

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do dhéanamh  
socrú maidir le Tort arb éard é Príobh-  
áideacht a Shárú; agus do dhéanamh socrú  
i dtaobh nithe a bhaineann leis an méid sin.

Bill entitled an Act to provide for a Tort  
of Violation of Privacy; and to provide for  
matters connected therewith.

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

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**15. Bille Toghcháin an tSeanaid (Rolla-Chomhaltaí) (Leasú) 2008 — Ordú don Dara Céim.**

Seanad Electoral (Panel Members) (Amendment) Bill 2008 — Order for Second Stage.

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do leasú Acht Toghcháin an tSeanaid (Rolla-Chomhaltaí) 1947 i ndáil le clárú maidir leis an rolla riaracháin. Bill entitled an Act to amend the Seanad Electoral (Panel Members) Act 1947 in relation to registration in respect of the administrative panel.

—*Senators Maurice Cummins, Frances Fitzgerald, Paul Coghlan.*

**16. An Bille um Fhorais Chultúir Náisiúnta (Leasú) 2008 — Ordú don Dara Céim.**

National Cultural Institutions (Amendment) Bill 2008 — Order for Second Stage.

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do leasú an Achta um Fhorais Chultúir Náisiúnta 1997. Bill entitled an Act to amend the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997.

—*Senator Alex White.*

*Ráitis (atógáil):*

*Statements (resumed):*

**17. Ráitis maidir le Conradh Liospóin um Athchóiriú (atógáil).**

Statements on the Lisbon Reform Treaty (*resumed*).

**18. Ráitis faoin Tuarascáil maidir le Grinnscrúdú AE (Uimh. 21) dar teideal Faisnéis faoi Bhia a Sholáthar do Thomhaltóirí (atógáil).**

Statements on the Report on EU Scrutiny (No. 21) entitled Provision of Food Information to Consumers (*resumed*).

*Tairiscintí:*

*Motions:*

**19.** “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Ghrinnscrúdú Eorpach dar teideal ‘Tuarascáil Iniúchta AE Uimh. 21: COM(2008) 40 críochnaitheach — Togra le haghaidh Rialacháin ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gComhairle maidir le Faisnéis faoi Bhia a Sholáthar do Thomhaltóirí’ a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 13 Samhain, 2008. That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on European Scrutiny entitled ‘EU Scrutiny Report No. 21: COM(2008) 40 final — Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Provision of Food Information to Consumers’ which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 13th November, 2008.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

**[27 January, 2009]**

**20.** “Go gceadaíonn Seanad Éireann na Rialacháin seo a leanas ina ndrúacht:

That Seanad Éireann approves the following Regulations in draft:

Na Rialacháin um Pleanáil agus Forbairt (Treoirlínte Pleanála Réigiúnacha) 2009,

The Planning and Development (Regional Planning Guidelines) Regulations 2009,

ar leagadh cóipeanna díobh ina ndrúacht faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 10 Feabhra, 2009.

copies of which were laid in draft form before Seanad Éireann on 10 February, 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

## 21. “Go ndéanann Seanad Éireann:

## That Seanad Éireann:

- a thabhairt dá aire an tuarascáil maidir leis an scrúdú neamhspleách a rinne an tUasal Paul Coffey AS ar ábhair inní Choiste Íospartach Stardust i ndáil leis an imscrúdú ar an gcúis a bhí leis an tubaiste dóiteáin;
  - a aithint nach eol cén chúis a bhí leis an dóiteán, gur míniú barúlach amháin an fhionnachtain bhunaídh gur choirloscadh a bhí ann agus nach bhfianaitear an méid sin le haon fhianaise agus nach féidir a mheas go bhfuil aon daoine de na daoine a bhí i láthair oíche an dóiteáin freagrach as;
  - glacadh le tuairim an Uasail Coffey nárbh é leas an phobail é Binse nua a bhunú chun an chúis a bhí leis an dóiteán a fhiosrú d’éagmais aon fhianaise sainaitheanta;
  - tacú leis an Rialtas le linn Coiste a bhunú chun faireachán a dhéanamh ar riachtanais comhairleoireachta agus liachta na ndaoine sin a tháinig slán as agus mhuintir na ndaoine a fuair bás; agus
  - a fhíor-chomhbhrón leanúnach d’íospartaigh thragóid Dhóiteán Stardust agus do mhuintir na ndaoine a fuair bás a chur in iúl.
- notes the report of the independent examination by Mr. Paul Coffey SC of the concerns of the Stardust Victims Committee in relation to the investigation of the cause of the fire disaster;
  - acknowledges that the cause of the fire is unknown, the original finding of arson is a mere hypothetical explanation and is not demonstrated by any evidence and that none of the persons present on the night of the fire can be held responsible for it;
  - accepts the view of Mr. Coffey that to establish a new Tribunal to investigate the cause of the fire in the absence of any identified evidence would not be in the public interest;
  - supports the Government in establishing a Committee to monitor the counselling and medical needs of the survivors and bereaved; and
  - expresses its continuing and deep sympathy with all of the victims and bereaved of the Stardust Fire tragedy.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

22. Tairiscintí nach ón Rialtas:  
Non-Government Motions:

1. “That Seanad Éireann, in the light of the recent comments by Nobel Prize winning poet Seamus Heaney and others, calls on the Government to revisit plans and examine an alternative routing and methodology to that of the M3 through the Tara Valley which will win acceptance among all interested parties.”

—*Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik.*

**[5 March, 2008]**

2. “That Seanad Éireann ask FARC to release immediately on humanitarian grounds, Ingrid Betancourt and other ill hostages held in Colombia.”

—*Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Joe O’Toole, Feargal Quinn, Rónán Mullen, Shane Ross.*

**[8 April, 2008]**

3. “That Seanad Éireann regrets and distances itself from the comments of Senator Jim Walsh at the Order of Business on Tuesday 22 April 2008 in relation to Chairmen of Tribunals established by these Houses.”

—*Senators Frances Fitzgerald, Joe O’Toole, Alex White, David Norris.*

**[24 April, 2008]**

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4. “That Seanad Éireann condemns the Government for:

- squandering significant budget surpluses,
- its failure to control inflation,
- its failure to deliver necessary infrastructure on time and within budget, and,
- its failure to reform the public service;

and, in light of the changing economic outlook for our economy calls on the Government to outline the results of measures taken (if any) to stress test our economy and provide detail cost benefits analysis of major projects, and

to outline the steps that are being taken to:

- restore competitiveness,
- restore the low rates of inflation that were the hallmark of our economy,
- prevent rising unemployment, and
- ensure that vital health services, education services and infrastructural projects will be available to the citizens of Ireland.”

—*Senators Maurice Cummins, Frances Fitzgerald, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Jerry Buttimer, Paudie Coffey, Paul Coghlan, Paschal Donohoe, Fidelma Healy Eames, Nicky McFadden, Eugene Regan, John Paul Phelan, Liam Twomey, Joe O’Reilly.*

**[7 May, 2008]**

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5. “That Seanad Éireann urges the Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism, in the light of the proposed redevelopment of a very large site at the north end of O’Connell Street which includes the former Carlton Cinema, to take steps to ensure that the Abbey Theatre is located in the former Carlton site which all authorities agree is by far the best and most practical location.”

—*Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Joe O’Toole, Rónán Mullen, Shane Ross.*

**[20 May, 2008]**

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6. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism as a matter of urgency, to immediately outline the Government’s programme and intention regarding the construction of a new Abbey National Theatre, dealing with all aspects of the project.”

—*Senators Paul Coghlan, Frances Fitzgerald, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Jerry Buttimer, Paudie Coffey, Maurice Cummins, Paschal Donohoe, Fidelma Healy Eames, Nicky McFadden, Eugene Regan, John Paul Phelan, Liam Twomey, Joe O’Reilly.*

**[22 May, 2008]**

7. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism to reform the current system for the funding of the arts in Ireland to ensure that there is a coherent, transparent and accessible basis for funding the arts, and artists in Ireland and to develop clear criteria against which funding applications can be prepared, submitted and assessed so that *ad hoc* funding decisions are not taken by disparate bodies, agencies or the Department without regard to any wider strategic issues; and entrusts the Arts Council with primary responsibility to allocate funding to the arts.”  
—*Senators Paul Coghlan, Frances Fitzgerald, Paddy Burke, Paul Bradford, Jerry Buttimer, Paudie Coffey, Maurice Cummins, Paschal Donohoe, Fidelma Healy Eames, Nicky McFadden, Joe O’Reilly, Eugene Regan, John Paul Phelan, Liam Twomey.*

[24 September, 2008]

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8. “That Seanad Éireann is appalled by and deplores the outrageous decision by the Department of Education and Science to close the Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education; and this decision represents a significant set-back for the early childhood sector and in particular the promotion of consistent, high quality standards in this crucial area.”

—*Senators Joe O’Toole, Ivana Bacik, David Norris, Shane Ross, Feargal Quinn.*

[30 September, 2008]

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9. “That Seanad Éireann expresses grave concern at water quality in Ireland; recent cases of lead pollution in County Louth, contamination of water supplies in major urban areas such as Galway city and the possible detrimental effect of the fluoridation scheme presently in operation.”

—*Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Feargal Quinn, Shane Ross, Rónán Mullen, Ivana Bacik.*

[7 October, 2008]

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10. “That Seanad Éireann takes note of the Annual Report 2007 of the Irish Human Rights Commission.”

—*Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik, Rónán Mullen, Feargal Quinn.*

[14 October, 2008]

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11. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Government to examine the status of charities and charitable collections and in particular to investigate the practice of so called ‘chugging’ or charity mugging by street collectors.”

—*Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross, Feargal Quinn.*

[21 October, 2008]

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12. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Minister for Foreign Affairs to seek the establishment of a monitoring group to supervise the implementation of the Human Rights Attachments to the External Association Agreement between the European Union and the State of Israel.”

—*Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross.*

[21 October, 2008]

13. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism to come into the House to give a full account of the current situation regarding the future of the Abbey Theatre and its possible relocation.”

—Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross, Feargal Quinn.

[21 October, 2008]

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14. “That Seanad Éireann expresses its concern at growing reports of climate change in various parts of the world; and requests the Minister to come into the House and give a progress report on our position concerning Ireland reaching its target under the Kyoto Protocol.”

—Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross, Feargal Quinn.

[21 October, 2008]

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15. “That Seanad Éireann, in the light of the Ferns Report, requests the Government to re-examine the exemption of the churches from the operations of equality legislation.”

—Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross.

[21 October, 2008]

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16. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Government to give serious examination to the Dargan Metro Project involving an orbital metro route as well as an airport metro line and which, fully costed, presents a more economic prospect than the existing proposal.”

—Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross, Feargal Quinn.

[21 October, 2008]

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17. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Government in the light of the fact that Ireland is one of the few EU countries that does not facilitate citizens living abroad but within the EU in the exercise of their voting rights in Dáil Elections, Presidential Elections and referenda to make appropriate provisions without delay.”

—Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross.

[21 October, 2008]

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18. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Dalai Lama, notwithstanding their differences on Tibet’s historical relationship with China, to continue the dialogue in a forward-looking manner which will lead to pragmatic solutions that respect the Chinese constitutional framework, the territorial integrity of China and fulfil the aspirations of the Tibetan people for a unified and genuinely autonomous Tibet.”

—Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross, Joe O’Toole, Rónán Mullen, Feargal Quinn.

[21 October, 2008]

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19. “That Seanad Éireann takes note of the Environmental Protection Agency’s report ‘Key Meteorological Indicators of Climate Change in Ireland’.”

—Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik, Rónán Mullen, Feargal Quinn.

[21 October, 2008]

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20. “That Seanad Éireann strongly recommends that the Government:

- excludes the minimum wage from the proposed 1% income levy;
- reinstates in full, the universal entitlement of the over 70s to a medical card and;
- reverses the budget proposal to worsen class size in primary and post primary schools.”

—*Senators Joe O’Toole, Ivana Bacik, Rónán Mullen, Shane Ross, David Norris.*

**[22 October, 2008]**

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21. “That Seanad Éireann demands the immediate reversal of the Government decision to withdraw the automatic entitlement to a medical card from citizens aged over 70 years.”

—*Senators, Frances Fitzgerald, Paddy Burke, Paul Bradford, Jerry Buttimer, Paudie Coffey, Paul Coghlan, Maurice Cummins, Paschal Donohoe, Fidelma Healy Eames, Nicky McFadden, Joe O’Reilly, Eugene Regan, John Paul Phelan, Liam Twomey.*

**[22 October, 2008]**

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22. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to explain the Government’s actions in imposing savage cut backs and other negative measures on the Equality Agency, the Combat Poverty Agency, the Irish Human Rights Commission and other state established bodies which have the responsibility of representing the marginalised and vulnerable in our Society.”

—*Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Joe O’Toole.*

**[13 November, 2008]**

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23. “That Seanad Éireann noting:

- the findings of the Health Information and Quality Authority whereby the introduction of the HPV cervical cancer vaccination programme could see a 34 per cent reduction in pre-cancers, a 56 per cent reduction in cervical cancer and a 56 per cent reduction in deaths from cervical cancer;
- that the total cost of introducing the vaccine is estimated to be €9.7 million according to the Health Information and Quality Authority;
- that the direct savings in treatment costs due to the disease being avoided is more than €2.7 million per annum according to the Health Information and Quality Authority, excluding broader savings;
- the breakthrough nature of this medical advance; and
- that the total health budget is more than €16,000 million this year;

condemns the decision of the Minister for Health and Children to abandon this programme as short-sighted and unjustifiable, and calls on the Minister for Health and Children to immediately reverse her decision.”

—*Senators Frances Fitzgerald, Paddy Burke, Paul Bradford, Jerry Buttimer, Paudie Coffey, Paul Coghlan, Maurice Cummins, Paschal Donohoe, Fidelma Healy Eames, Nicky McFadden, Joe O’Reilly, Eugene Regan, John Paul Phelan, Liam Twomey.*

**[13 November, 2008]**

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24. “That Seanad Éireann deplores the murder of an innocent victim in Limerick by gangland criminals last week, making him the 17th gangland murder victim this year; and calls on the Government to take definitive action steps to quell the activities of criminal gangs.”

—*Senators Eugene Regan, Frances Fitzgerald, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Jerry Buttimer, Paudie Coffey, Paul Coghlan, Maurice Cummins, Paschal Donohoe, Fidelma Healy Eames, Nicky McFadden, Joe O’Reilly, Eugene Regan, John Paul Phelan, Liam Twomey.*

**[18 November, 2008]**

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25. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to cut off the source of gangland criminals’ wealth and weapons, namely drugs, by providing adequate resources to An Garda Síochána and the Customs and Excise Service with the necessary manpower and modern equipment.”

—*Senators Eugene Regan, Frances Fitzgerald, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Jerry Buttimer, Paudie Coffey, Paul Coghlan, Maurice Cummins, Paschal Donohoe, Fidelma Healy Eames, Nicky McFadden, Joe O’Reilly, Eugene Regan, John Paul Phelan, Liam Twomey.*

**[18 November, 2008]**

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26. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, as a matter of urgency, to outline immediately the government’s plans regarding the construction of the proposed new prison, Thornton Hall, dealing with all aspects of the project.”

—*Senators Eugene Regan, Frances Fitzgerald, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Jerry Buttimer, Paudie Coffey, Paul Coghlan, Maurice Cummins, Paschal Donohoe, Fidelma Healy Eames, Nicky McFadden, Joe O’Reilly, Eugene Regan, John Paul Phelan, Liam Twomey.*

**[18 November, 2008]**

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27. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to implement measures to reduce the high numbers of repeat offenders in Ireland as revealed in a 2006 UCD study.”

—*Senators Eugene Regan, Frances Fitzgerald, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Jerry Buttimer, Paudie Coffey, Paul Coghlan, Maurice Cummins, Paschal Donohoe, Fidelma Healy Eames, Nicky McFadden, Joe O’Reilly, Eugene Regan, John Paul Phelan, Liam Twomey.*

**[18 November, 2008]**

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28. “That Seanad Éireann hereby states and resolves that the proposed deportation of Pamela Izevbekhai and her daughters was not the sort of action envisaged by this House when the original legislation was passed.”

—*Senators David Norris, Senator Ivana Bacik, Rónán Mullen, Joe O’Toole.*

**[25 November, 2008]**

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29. “That Seanad Éireann condemns utterly the disgraceful action of the Government in destroying the Combat Poverty Agency and the Equality Agency and the gutting of the Irish Human Rights Commission and calls on the Government to rescind these decisions.”

—*Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Joe O’Toole.*

**[15 December, 2008]**

30. “That Seanad Éireann condemns the Government for the abolition of the Combat Poverty Agency which successfully:

- represented the vulnerable and forgotten in Irish society;
- provided vital data on poverty and health inequalities;
- highlighted social welfare reform proposals;

for imposing excessive cutbacks of 43% of the annual budget of the Equality Authority and decentralising its offices resulting in a loss of expertise, thus

- purposely diminishing its ability to provide its services;
- effectively forcing its Chief Executive to resign his post;

for the cuts of 24% to the budget of the Irish Human Rights Commission, thus

- weakening its role within the context of the Good Friday agreement;
- “substantially hampering” its ability to execute its core activities; and

for severely impairing the ability of the Equality Authority and Irish Human Rights Commission to carry out their functions and thereby damaging Ireland’s reputation as a vigilant democracy in respect of human rights.”

—*Senators Eugene Regan, Frances Fitzgerald, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Jerry Buttimer, Paudie Coffey, Maurice Cummins, Paschal Donohue, Fidelma Healy Eames, Nicky McFadden, Paul Coghlan, John Paul Phelan, Liam Twomey, Joe O’Reilly.*

**[30 January, 2009]**

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31. “That Seanad Éireann urges the Irish Government to continue its support for moves to establish an International War Crimes Inquiry into certain aspects of the Israeli attack on Gaza including the use of white phosphorus in densely inhabited civilian areas, the use of dime munitions and the apparently deliberate shelling of the U.N. facilities, including schools which were being used as places of sanctuary by Palestinian civilians as well as the question of illegal collective punishment and to maintain discussions with the representatives of countries such as Cyprus, Sweden and Portugal who have also supported this move.”

—*Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Joe O’Toole, Rónán Mullen.*

**[10 February, 2009]**

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32. “That Seanad Éireann urges the Irish Government to continue its support for moves to establish an independent international investigation into alleged violations of international humanitarian law during Israel’s military action in Gaza including the use of white phosphorus in densely inhabited civilian areas, the use of dime munitions and the shelling of the U.N. facilities, including schools which were being used as places of sanctuary by Palestinian civilians as well as the question of collective punishment and to maintain discussions with the representatives of countries such as Belgium, Cyprus, Sweden and Portugal who have also supported this move and that the independent international investigation also investigate the indiscriminate rocket attacks on civilians perpetrated by Hamas and others, the alleged storage of munitions in civilian locations and the allegations of the shooting of innocent Palestinians by Hamas, the alleged use of civilians as human shields by any actor and the alleged firing of rockets from positions adjacent to UN facilities, to schools and hospitals, furthermore, that the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs supports a two state

solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict with the objective of the State of Israel and an independent Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security and urges the Government to continue to fully support such resolution of the conflict and to take all appropriate steps in the UN, at EU level and in its bilateral international relations to promote and achieve such resolution; supports the International Quartet (EU, USA, Russia and the UN) in its work, and other initiatives to resolve the conflict; welcomes the appointment by President Obama of George Mitchell as his Middle East peace envoy; calls on Iran to end its opposition to a 2 state solution; commends the initiative taken by Egypt to mediate a durable ceasefire between Israel and Hamas; and urges all sides to fully co-operate with UNRWA to facilitate the provision by it in Gaza of humanitarian relief.”

—*Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Rónán Mullen, Joe O’Toole.*

**[17 February, 2009]**

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33. “That Seanad Éireann make special provision for a 90 minute rolling debate on the economy to be taken on a weekly basis following the Order of Business.”

—*Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Ivana Bacik, Feargal Quinn, Rónán Mullen.*

**[23 February, 2009]**

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34. “That Seanad Éireann supports the development of Microfinance in this country along with greater support of the credit union sector to allow for the creation of local economic initiatives, an important and necessary step towards bringing about national economic recovery.”

—*Senators Dan Boyle, Deirdre De Burca.*

**[27 February, 2009]**

*Leasú:*

*Amendment:*

To delete all words after “the credit union sector” and substitute the following:

“and noting that loan impairments in some credit unions are running as high as 15 to 20%;

noting that almost 1/3 of Irish credit unions had First Quarter losses which on an annualised basis are between €100,000 and €1.2 million;

noting that many credit unions have been unable to pay dividends this year and that many other credit unions dipped into reserves to pay dividends;

noting that consequently liquidity has dried up completely in many credit unions;

noting the huge investment losses of many credit unions arising from ill-advised investment in perpetual and treasury funds;

noting that the ILCU is unable to provide or is refusing liquidity support to many credit unions as the Savings Protection Scheme [SPS], originally set up to provide such a facility, is inadequately structured and has insufficient liquid funds to satisfy the day to day cash demands;

noting that because of flawed legislation unfortunately the Regulator cannot take action against or sanction for reckless or bad directors; and

noting also that despite the Regulator’s attempts to impose Higher Audit Standards and Better Governance Standards, the reality is that the Regulator has no power to take action against them for non-compliance;

calls on the Government:

- to make funds available to the credit union movement to give them liquidity and to make credit be available;
  - to amend the credit union legislation in a manner which will, inter alia,
    - (i) establish an independent deposit protection scheme;
    - (ii) confer additional power and authority on the Credit Union Regulator; and
    - (iii) allow the Regulator act independently of the Department of Finance.
  - to establish a commission to examine and report on consolidation, liquidity, investment protocols, governance and amalgamations of credit unions; and
  - to allow credit unions to benefit from the proposed Government Support Fund for Viable but Vulnerable companies.”
- Senators Joe O’Toole, Shane Ross, Feargal Quinn, David Norris, Frances Fitzgerald, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Jerry Buttimer, Paudie Coffey, Paul Coghlan, Maurice Cummins, Paschal Donohue, Fidelma Healy Eames, Nicky McFadden, Joe O’Reilly, John Paul Phelan, Eugene Regan, Liam Twomey.*

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35. “That Seanad Éireann urges the Government to accept the recommendations of Transparency International including:

- the introduction of laws, similar to those in the UK, to protect whistleblowers in the public and private sector who report concerns of public importance;
- the introduction of a Register of Lobbyists that would bring more transparency to the relationship between government, regulators, business and interest groups.
- the ratification of international conventions against corruption, including the UN Convention described as the “Kyoto Protocol” on global corruption.
- the establishment of a Garda Anti-Corruption Unit and more resources for law enforcement agencies including the Director of Corporate Enforcement, the Competition Authority, the Criminal Assets Bureau, and the Garda Fraud Squad;
- the reform of the Freedom Information fee system as the Irish FOI fees and costs of appeals are the highest in the developed world;
- the publication of local Councillors’ declarations of interest on the internet;
- the scrapping of Government plans to treble the amount of gifts and loans politicians can receive and keep secret;
- the publication of an annual report by the Comptroller and Auditor General on some of the most costly public contracts each year;
- the opening of all appointments to the Boards of State bodies to public competition; and
- the publication of clear no-bribe and conflict of interest policies by newspaper organisations and journalist unions.”

—*Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik.*

**[3 March, 2009]**

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23. An Seanad a chur ar athló.  
Adjournment of the Seanad.

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BILLÍ SEANAID SA DÁIL  
*Seanad Bills with the Dáil*

An Bille um Athchóiriú an Dlí Talún agus Tíolactha 2006.  
Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Bill 2006.

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An Bille um Eitic in Oifigí Poiblí (Leasú) 2007.  
Ethics in Public Office (Amendment) Bill 2007.

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An Bille um Chlúmhillleadh 2006.  
Defamation Bill 2006.

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An Bille Craolacháin 2008.  
Broadcasting Bill 2008.

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Bille na dTithe (Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha) 2008.  
Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2008.

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An Bille um Fhorbairt Tionscail 2008.  
Industrial Development Bill 2008.

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MEMORANDA

*Dé Céadaoin, 4 Márta, 2009.*  
*Wednesday, 4th March, 2009.*

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Chumarsáid, Fuinneamh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha i Seomra Coiste 1, TL2000, ar 9.45 a.m.  
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in Committee Room 1, LH2000, at 9.45 a.m.

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Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Thalmhaíocht, Iascaigh agus Bia i Seomra Coiste 4, TL2000, ar 11.30 a.m.  
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food in Committee Room 4, LH2000, at 11.30 a.m.

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Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Athrú Aeráide agus Áirithiú Fuinnimh i Seomra Coiste 1, TL2000, ar 2.30 p.m.  
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Climate Change and Energy Security in Committee Room 1, LH2000, at 2.30 p.m.

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Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Eachtracha i Seomra Coiste 3, TL2000, ar 3 p.m.  
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs in Committee Room 3, LH2000, at 3 p.m.

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Cruinniú de Choiste Feidhmiúcháin Chumann Parlaiminteach na hÉireann sa Seomra Agallaimh, An Príomh-Halla, Teach Laighean, ar 6.30 p.m. (*Príobháideach*)  
 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Irish Parliamentary Association, Interview Room, Main Hall, Leinster House, at 6.30 p.m. (*Private*)

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*Déardaoin, 5 Márta, 2009.*  
*Thursday, 5th March, 2009.*

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Rialála Geilleagair i Seomra Coiste 3, TL2000, ar 11 a.m.  
 Meeting of the Joint Committee on Economic Regulatory Affairs in Committee Room 3, LH2000, at 11 a.m.

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Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Fhorfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta i Seomra Coiste 3, TL2000, ar 11.30 a.m.  
 Meeting of the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement in Committee Room 3, LH2000, at 11.30 a.m.

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PÁIPÉIR A LEAGADH FAOI BHRÁID AN tSEANAID  
*Papers laid before the Seanad*

*Reachtúil:*

*Statutory:*

1) Togra le haghaidh Rialacháin ón gComhairle lena leagtar síos na socrúithe trádála is infheidhme maidir le hearraí áirithe de thoradh ar phróiseáil táirgí talmhaíochta (Leagan códaithe) mar aon le nóta faisnéise míniúcháin. COM (2008) 796.

1) Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down the trade arrangements applicable to certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products (Codified version) together with explanatory information note. COM (2008) 796.

2) Togra le haghaidh Rialacháin ón gComhairle lena leasaítear Rialachán (CE) Uimh. 637/2008 ón gComhairle maidir leis na cláir athstruchtúraithe náisiúnta d'earnáil an chadáis mar aon le nóta faisnéise míniúcháin. COM (2009) 37.

2) Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No. 637/2008 as regards the national restructuring programmes for the cotton sector together with explanatory information note. COM (2009) 37.

3) Togra le haghaidh Cinnidh ón gComhairle lena mbunaítear an seasamh a bheidh le glacadh thar ceann an Chomhphobail sa Choiste um Chúnadh Bia maidir le leathnú an Choinbhinsiúin um Chúnadh Bia, 1999 mar aon le nóta faisnéise míniúcháin. COM (2009) 46.

3) Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the Community within the Food Aid Committee as regards the extension of the Food Aid Convention, 1999 together with explanatory information note. COM (2009) 46.

4) Tuarascáil ón gCoimisiún Reifrinn ar an Reifreann ar an mBille um an Ochtú Leasú is Fiche ar an mBunreacht 2004 (Conradh Liospóin).

4) Report of the Referendum Commission on the Referendum on the Twenty-Eighth Amendment of the Constitution Bill 2004 (Lisbon Treaty).

*Neamhreachtúil:**Non-Statutory:*

1) An tOrdú fán Acht um Bord Leigheasra na hÉireann (Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha) 2006 (Tosach Feidhme) 2009 (I.R. Uimh. 67 de 2009).

1) Irish Medicines Board (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 (Commencement) Order 2009 (S.I. No. 67 of 2009).

2) Tithe an Oireachtais. An Roghchoiste um Airgeadas agus an tSeirbhís Phoiblí. Tairiscint maidir leis an Ordú um an Acht Airgeadais 2004 (Alt 91) (Tabhairt Suas don Phríomh-Chiste a Iarchur) 2009. Feabhra, 2009.

2) Houses of the Oireachtas. Select Committee on Finance and the Public Service. Motion on Finance Act 2004 (Section 91) (Deferred Surrender to the Central Fund) Order 2009. February, 2009.

3) Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpach (Feirmeoireacht Orgánach) (Leasú) 2009 (I.R. Uimh. 30 de 2009).

3) European Communities (Organic Farming) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 30 of 2009).

4) Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpach (Síolrú Bólachta) 2009 (I.R. Uimh. 19 de 2009).

4) European Communities (Bovine Breeding) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 19 of 2009).

5) Tithe an Oireachtais. An Comhchoiste um Oideachas agus Eolaíocht. Tuarascáil Bhliantúil, 2007/2008. Feabhra, 2009.

5) Houses of the Oireachtas. Joint Committee on Education and Science. Annual Report, 2007/2008. February, 2009.

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