

Dé Céadaoin, 20 Bealtaine, 2009
Wednesday, 20th May, 2009

10.30 a.m.

RIAR NA hOIBRE
Order Paper

GNÓ POIBLÍ
Public Business

Tairiscint:

Motion:

1. “Go ndéanfar an togra go gceadaíonn Seanad Éireann an Stát d’fheidhmiú an roghnaithe, arna chur ar fáil le hAirteagal 3 den cheathrú Prótacal atá leagtha amach i gConradh Amstardam, fógra a thabhairt d’Uachtarán na Comhairle gur mian leis a bheith páirteach i nglacadh agus i bhfeidhmiú an bhirt bheartaithe seo a leanas:

togra le haghaidh Rialacháin ón gComhairle maidir le sásra measúnachta a bhunú chun cur chun feidhme *acquis* Schengen a fhíorú,

ar beart beartaithe é ar leagadh cóip de faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 2 Aibreán, 2009, a tharchur chuig an gComhchoiste um Dhlí agus Ceart, Comhionannas, Cosaint agus Cearta na mBan, de réir mhír (1) (Seanad) d’Orduithe Tagartha an Choiste sin, agus go ndéanfaidh an Comhchoiste sin, tráth nach déanaí ná an 10 Meitheamh, 2009 teachtaireacht a chur chuig an Seanad ar an modh a fhorordaítear i mBuan-Ordú 72, agus go mbeidh feidhm dá réir ag Buan-Ordú 74(2).

That the proposal that Seanad Éireann approves the exercise by the State of the option, provided by Article 3 of the fourth Protocol set out in the Treaty of Amsterdam, to notify the President of the Council that it wishes to take part in the adoption and application of the following proposed measure:

a proposal for a Council Regulation on the establishment of an evaluation mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen *acquis*,

a copy of which proposed measure was laid before Seanad Éireann on 2nd April, 2009, be referred to the Joint Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Women’s Rights in accordance with paragraph (1) (Seanad) of the Orders of Reference of that Committee, which, not later than 10th June, 2009, shall send a message to the Seanad in the manner prescribed in Standing Order 72, and Standing Order 74(2) shall accordingly apply.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

2. Ráitis maidir leis an Tionscail Bia Orgánaigh.
 Statements on the Organic Food Industry.

3. (I) Bille na gCuideachtaí (Leasú) 2009 — Ordú don Choiste.
 (a) Companies (Amendment) Bill 2009 — Order for Committee.

Tíolactha:

Presented:

4. An Bille um Sheirbhísí Maoine (Rialáil) 2009 — Ordú don Dara Céim.
Property Services (Regulation) Bill 2009 — Order for Second Stage.

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do dhéanamh socrú maidir le comhlacht a bhunú ar a dtabharfar an tÚdarás Rialála Seirbhísí Maoine, nó, sa Bhéarla, *the Property Services Regulatory Authority*, chun soláthraithe seirbhísí maoine a rialú agus a mhaoirsiú, chun a chur faoi deara aon ghearáin a dhéanfar i gcoinne na soláthraithe sin a imscrúdú agus chun breithniú a dhéanamh ar na gearáin sin; do dhéanamh socrú maidir le comhlacht a bhunú ar a dtabharfar an Bord Achomhairc um Sheirbhísí Maoine, nó, sa Bhéarla, *the Property Services Appeal Board*, chun achomhairc i gcoinne breitheanna áirithe a thabharfaidh an tÚdarás a éisteacht agus a chinneadh; agus do dhéanamh socrú maidir le Treoir 2006/123/CE a chur i gcuntas a mhéid a bhaineann sí le seirbhísí maoine; do dhéanamh socrú maidir le haisghairm nó leasú iarmhartach a dhéanamh ar achtacháin áirithe agus cúlghairm iarmhartach a dhéanamh ar ionstraim reachtúil; agus maidir le nithe gaolmhara.

Bill entitled an Act to amend to provide for the establishment of a body, to be known as *An tÚdarás Rialála Seirbhísí Maoine*, or, in the English language, the Property Services Regulatory Authority, to control and supervise the providers of property services, to cause any complaints against those providers to be investigated and to adjudicate on any such complaints; to provide for the establishment of a body to be known as *An Bord Achomhairc um Sheirbhísí Maoine*, or, in the English language, the Property Services Appeal Board, to hear and determine appeals against certain decisions of the Authority; and to provide for taking account of Directive 2006/123/EC in so far as it relates to property services; to provide for the consequential repeal or amendment of certain enactments and the revocation of a statutory instrument; and for related matters.

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

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5. An Bille Cróinéirí 2007 — An Coiste.
Coroners Bill 2007 — Committee.

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6. 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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7. 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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8. 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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9. 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.*

- 10.** 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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- 11.** An Bille um Fhorais Chreidmheasa (Tacaíocht Airgeadais) (Leasú) 2009 — An Dara Céim.
Credit Institutions (Financial Support) (Amendment) Bill 2009 — Second Stage.
—*Senators Paul Coghlan, Maurice Cummins, Frances Fitzgerald.*
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Bille (atógáil) (0.03 n. fágtha):
Bill (resumed) (0.03 m. remaining):

- 12.** 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):

- 13.** 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):

- 14.** 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):

- 15.** 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:

- 16.** 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 Príobháideacht 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.*

17. 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.*

18. 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):

19. Ráitis maidir le Conradh Liospóin um Athchóiriú (atógáil).

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

20. 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:

21. “Go ndéanann Seanad Éireann:

— a thabhairt dá aire an tuarascáil maidir leis an scrúdú neamhspleách a rinne an tUasal Paul Coffey AS ar ábhair imní 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 bhfianáítear 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;

That Seanad Éireann:

— 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;

- 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.
- 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.*

[3 March, 2009]

22. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Eorpacha dar teideal Cuairt Staidéir ar na Balcáin Thiar: An Chróit agus An Bhoisnia-Heirseagaivéin — *Aontachas AE agus Peirspicéocht Eorpach*; a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 7 Aibreán, 2009.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on European Affairs, entitled Study Visit to the Western Balkans: Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina — *EU Accession and a European Perspective*; which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 7 April, 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

[22 April, 2009]

23. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Eorpacha ina ndéantar comhghairdeas le Comhairle na hEorpa ar ócáid a Cothroim 60 Bliain agus ina n-aithnítear an rannchuidiú ollmhór atá déanta ag an gComhairle i réimse chearta an duine agus trí fhóram a sholáthar do Thíortha na hEorpa chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar shaincheisteanna is cás leo go léir; a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 7 Aibreán, 2009.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on European Affairs congratulating the Council of Europe on the occasion of its 60th Anniversary and acknowledging the enormous contribution the Council has made in the field of human rights and in providing a forum for the Countries of Europe to address issues of mutual concern; which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 7 April, 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

[22 April, 2009]

24. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Ghrinnscrúdú Eorpach dar teideal ‘*Tuarascáil Iniúchta AE Uimh. 22: COM (2008) 721 — Togra le haghaidh Rialacháin*

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on European Scrutiny entitled ‘*EU Scrutiny Report No. 22: COM (2008) 721 — Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a Community*

ón gComhairle lena mbunaítear córas rialaithe Comhphobail chun a chinntiú go gcomhlíontar rialacha an Chomhbheartais Iascaigh’ a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 15 Aibreán, 2009.

control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy’ which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 15th April, 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

[22 April, 2009]

25. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil maidir le rannchuidiú an Chomhchoiste leis an gCoimisiún Eorpach i dtaca lena Pháipéar Uaine ‘I dtreo Margaidh Fuinnimh Eorpaigh a bheidh daingean, inmharthana agus iomaíoch;’ a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 17 Aibreán, 2009.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee’s contribution to the European Commission on its Green Paper ‘Towards a secure, sustainable and competitive European Energy Market;’ which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 17 April, 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

[22 April, 2009]

26. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil maidir le tráchtáil an Chomhchoiste i ndáil leis na moltaí ón nGrúpa Ardleibhéil ar Mhaoirseacht Airgeadais san AE; a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 17 Aibreán, 2009.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee’s comments on the recommendations of the High Level Group on Financial Supervision in the EU; which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 17 April, 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

[22 April, 2009]

27. “Go gceadaíonn Seanad Éireann an tOrdú seo a leanas ina dhréacht:

That Seanad Éireann approves the following Order in draft:

An tOrdú um an mBord Bia (Aistriú Feidhmeanna an Bhoird Iascaigh Mhara a bhaineann le hÉisc a Mhargú) 2009

An Bord Bia (Transfer of Functions of An Bord Iascaigh Mhara relating to Fish Marketing) Order 2009,

ar leagadh cóip de ina dhréacht faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 1 Bealtaine, 2009.

a copy of which Order in draft was laid before Seanad Éireann on 1 May, 2009”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

[6 May, 2009]

28. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um an Leasú Bunreachtáil maidir le Leanaí dar teideal ‘An Dara Tuarascáil Eatramhach ar an mBille um an Ochtú Leasú is Fiche ar an mBunreacht 2007, Airteagal 42(A).5.2° — Togra chun údarás dlíthiúil a thabhairt chun cionta a chruthú ar cionta dliteanais iomláin nó diandliteanais i leith cionta gnéasacha in aghaidh leanaí nó i dtaca le leanaí iad’ a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 7 Bealtaine, 2009.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on the Constitutional Amendment on Children entitled ‘Second Interim Report on the Twenty-eighth Amendment of the Constitution Bill 2007, Article 42(A).5.2° — Proposal to give legal authority to create offences of absolute or strict liability in respect of sexual offences against or in connection with children’ which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 7 May, 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

[13 May, 2009]

29. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Eorpacha dar teideal ‘Tuarascáil maidir le Rannchuidiú an Chomhchoiste leis an gCoimisiún Eorpach i dtaca lena Pháipéar Uaine maidir le cáilíocht táirgí talmhaíochta: caighdeáin táirgí, riachtanais feirmeoireachta agus scéimeanna cáilíochta’, COM(2008)641, Tuarascáil Iniúchta AE Uimh. 4, a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 15 Bealtaine, 2009.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on European Affairs entitled ‘Report on the Joint Committee’s Contribution to the European Commission on its Green Paper on agricultural product quality: product standards, farming requirements and quality schemes’ COM(2008)641, EU Scrutiny Report No. 4, which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 15 May, 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*
[19 May, 2009]

30. “Go gceadaíonn Seanad Éireann an Stát d’fheidhmiú an roghnaithe, arna chur ar fáil le hAirteagal 3 den cheathrú Prótacal atá leagtha amach i gConradh Amstardam, fógra a thabhairt d’Uachtarán na Comhairle gur mian leis a bheith páirteach i nglacadh agus i bhfeidhmiú an bhirt bheartaithe seo a leanas:

That Seanad Éireann approves the exercise by the State of the option, provided by Article 3 of the fourth Protocol set out in the Treaty of Amsterdam, to notify the President of the Council that it wishes to take part in the adoption and application of the following proposed measure:

togra le haghaidh Rialacháin ón gComhairle maidir le sásra measúnachta a bhunú chun cur chun feidhme *acquis* Schengen a fhíorú,

a proposal for a Council Regulation on the establishment of an evaluation mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen *acquis*,

ar beart beartaithe é ar leagadh cóip de faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 2 Aibreán, 2009.

a copy of which proposed measure was laid before Seanad Éireann on 2nd April, 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

31. *Tairiscintí nach ón Rialtas:*
Non-Government Motions:

1. “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]

2. “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]

3. “That Seanad Éireann is appalled by and deplors 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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4. “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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5. “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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6. “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]

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7. “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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8. “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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9. “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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10. “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]

11. “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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12. “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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13. “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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14. “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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15. “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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16. “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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17. “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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18. “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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19. “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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20. “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, Ivana Bacik, Rónán Mullen, Joe O'Toole.*

[25 November, 2008]

21. “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]

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22. “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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23. “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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24. “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]

25. “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]

26. “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, Rónán Mullen.*

[3 March, 2009]

27. “Ag cuimhneamh:

- go ndearnadh gnó na Chéad Dála 90 bliain ó shin go hiomlán trí Ghaeilge; agus
- gurb í an Ghaeilge an teanga náisiúnta agus an phríomhtheanga oifigiúil faoi Airteagal 8 den Bhunreacht;

beartaíonn an Seanad:

- úsáid na Gaeilge a mhéadú i ngnó an tSeanaid i 2009 go céatadán a bheidh aontaithe idir na páirtithe; agus
- tús a chur leis seo le linn ‘Seachtain na Gaeilge’ sa Dáil an 10, 11, 12 Márta nuair a dhéanfar 50% de ghnó an tSeanaid trí mheán na Gaeilge.”

—*Senators Pearse Doherty, Joe O’Toole.*

[10 March, 2009]

28. “Seanad Éireann calls on the Minister for Transport to ensure:

- an immediate Moratorium on the issuing of taxi plates;
- the initiation of a comprehensive and coherent reform of the Taxi Service Industry under the aegis of the Framework for Progress;
- the absorption of the Taxi Regulator’s office into the Department of Transport;
- the granting of legal power to Local Authorities to establish and regulate appropriate numbers of taxi licences in their areas; and
- the reclassification of taxi drivers for PRSI purposes to enable protection in adverse financial or health circumstances under the social welfare code.”

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

[10 March, 2009]

29. “That Seanad Éireann,

- while acknowledging that recent budgetary provisions have led to serious inequities and that these inequities will require to be addressed in the near future;
- recognising the crucial role that the trade union movement continues to play in Irish life; and
- having regard to the urgency of the economic situation and the need for unity among all sectors of the community in dealing with this situation;

views with concern the proposal by ICTU to organise a one-day strike on Monday 30th March, 2009 and calls on the leadership of ICTU to cancel the proposed day of action in order to facilitate the best national effort in dealing with the current economic crisis.”

—*Senators Rónán Mullen, Shane Ross.*

[25 March, 2009]

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30. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Government to establish as a matter of urgency an expert committee to examine in an impartial fashion the feasibility, benefits and potential hazards of nuclear energy generation.”

—*Senators David Norris, Feargal Quinn.*

[7 April, 2009]

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31. “That Seanad Éireann acknowledges and welcomes international endorsement of the Government’s overseas aid programme.”

—*Senators Donie Cassidy, Martin Brady, Larry Butler, Peter Callanan, Ivor Callely, John Carty, Maria Corrigan, Mark Daly, John Ellis, Geraldine Feeney, Camillus Glynn, John Hanafin, Cecilia Keaveney, Tony Kett, Terry Leyden, Marc Mac Sharry, Lisa McDonald, Francis O’Brien, Brian Ó Domhnaill, Denis O’Donovan, Labhrás Ó Murchú, Ann Ormonde, Ned O’Sullivan, Kieran Phelan, Jim Walsh, Mary White, Diarmuid Wilson.*

[19 May, 2009]

Leasuithe:

Amendments:

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

“notes that then Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, TD at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations committed Ireland to reach the UN target of 0.7% of Gross National Product devoted to overseas development aid by 2007, but did not fulfil that promise;

notes that then Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, TD again committed Ireland to reach the UN target, this time by 2012, at a UN summit of world leaders in 2005;

notes that the White Paper on Irish Aid, describing the impact of Irish aid, stated that ‘With Ireland’s support, Tanzania has made major strides towards universal primary education. Net primary school enrolment rates have increased dramatically from 50% in the late 1990s to around 95% in 2005’ and that ‘With Ireland’s support, a new welfare system has been put in place in Ethiopia which keeps hunger at bay for six million of the poorest people in that country each year’;

notes the fiscal collapse experienced in Ireland in 2008 and 2009 and the resulting cuts in state expenditure imposed in 2008 and 2009;

notes that as Ireland’s Overseas Development Aid budget is calculated as a percentage of Gross National Product, its cost to the taxpayer was already reducing substantially as Ireland’s GNP reduced during the economic downturn being experienced;

regrets that Ireland’s Overseas Development Aid budget was disproportionately targeted for cuts that reduced the incomes of Irish aid agencies by between 20-25%, far in excess of other aspects of the Irish state expenditure;

expresses alarm that Ireland’s biggest development agency, Concern, has had to lay off 19 staff and pull out of three countries, while Goal has had to lay off 9 staff and to pull its team out of the Democratic Republic of Congo as well as reducing by 70% all water and sanitation, health and nutrition programmes in Niger, all due to cuts in Ireland’s overseas aid budget;

reminds the Government in the words of then Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, TD in the foreword of the White Paper on Irish Aid that ‘Every day Ireland’s official aid programme, Irish Aid, saves lives’;

reminds the Government that its own white paper on Irish aid stated that ‘The level of need in these countries is not comparable to anything in Ireland’;

expresses extreme concern that the cuts imposed will cost lives of those reliant on Irish development aid;

urges the Government to re-state its commitment to reach the 0.7% of GNP devoted to overseas development aid by 2012;

endorses the call from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development that the government ‘refrain from further budgetary action that would undermine this commitment’; and

calls on the Government to begin reversing the cuts in the overseas aid budget in the 2010 budget.”

—*Senators 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.*

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

“condemns the Government for breaking the commitments clearly and repeatedly given to reach the 0.7% target for development aid.”

—*Senators David Norris, Feargal Quinn, Ivan Bacik.*

3. To add after “aid programme”:

“notes that the OECD/DAC also said: ‘the challenge for the Government is to reach these targets despite severe economic downturn and increased budgetary pressure’. That DAC also urged the Government ‘to refrain from further budgetary action that would undermine this commitment’;

notes the recent concession by Minister of State for Overseas Development, Peter Power, that decentralisation of Irish Aid from Dublin to Limerick had caused a loss of key personnel;

notes that Ireland has slipped back from progress towards its ODA commitments this year as a result of €195 million in combined cuts in February and April;

notes that despite the Government saying it is committed to meeting the UN target of spending 0.7 per cent of GNI by 2012, it will, in fact, slip backwards from 0.58% in 2008 to a projected 0.48% this year after the February and April cuts;

notes that the serious slippage in ODA/GNI performance projected for 2009 has caused Irish development NGOs, as a sector, to suggest that it is now unlikely that Ireland will meet the Government’s own interim target of spending 0.6% of GNI on ODA by 2010;

expresses concern that it sends a strange message for the Government to celebrate its ODA achievements while, at the very same time, cutting back on programme areas where we have already made an investment;

regrets that Ireland’s Overseas Development Aid budget was disproportionately targeted for cuts, reducing the entire aid budget by 22% in the past 10 months;

regrets the lack of transparency in the manner in which these cuts have been implemented;

regrets the statement attributed to Minister Power, that he had sought to protect emergency funding and bilateral aid, which ‘produces more results’, in this year’s budget;

reminds the Government that the work of Irish aid agencies and Irish missionaries are the cornerstone of the Irish public’s support of the Irish Aid programme;

reminds the Government that the report of its Hunger Task Force in September 2008 noted that ‘regardless of the current international economic climate, without both developed and developing countries acting on their commitments, hunger will not be reduced’;

reminds the Government of the separate target, set out in the recommendations of the Hunger Task Force, of working ‘towards an indicative target of 20% of its ODA to actions to alleviate and eradicate hunger’;

urges the Government to publish detailed figures on all disbursements from Irish aid in this fiscal year, and to allow a comparison of these figures with those for the last fiscal year;

urges the Minister to set out how plans to redress the impact of decentralisation of Irish Aid to Limerick;

urges the government to immediately stop the cuts and build up the programme so that Ireland actually meets its commitments instead of merely talking of them; and

calls on the Government to ensure that the next budget sees us meeting our commitments beyond 2012 and into the future.”

—*Senators Rónán Mullen, Shane Ross.*

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

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.

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

An Bille um Chlúmhilleadh 2006.
Defamation Bill 2006.

An Bille Craolacháin 2008.
Broadcasting Bill 2008.

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

An Bille Cuanta (Leasú) 2008.
Harbours (Amendment) Bill 2008.

An Bille Uchtála 2009.
Adoption Bill 2009.

MEMORANDA

Dé Céadaoin, 20 Bealtaine, 2009.
Wednesday, 20th May, 2009.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste ar an mBunreacht i Seomra Coiste 3, TL2000, ar 9.30 a.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on the Constitution in Committee Room 3, LH2000, at 9.30 a.m.

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.

Cruinniú den Fhochoiste um Chruthú Post trí Acmhainní Fuinnimh Inathnaite a Úsáid i Seomra Coiste 3, TL2000, ar 12 meán lae.
Meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Creation of Jobs through the Use of Renewable Energy Resources in Committee Room 3, LH2000, at 12 noon.

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.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Iompar i Seomra Coiste 1, TL2000, ar 3.45 p.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Transport in Committee Room 1, LH2000, at 3.45 p.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um an Leasú Bunreachta maidir le Leanaí i Seomra Coiste 2, TL2000, ar 5 p.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on the Constitutional Amendment on Children in Committee Room 2, LH2000, at 5 p.m.

Déardaoin, 21 Bealtaine, 2009.
Thursday, 21st May, 2009.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Oideachas agus Eolaíocht i Seomra Coiste 2, TL2000, ar 10 a.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Education and Science in Committee Room 2, LH2000, at 10 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Thalmhaíocht, Iascaigh agus Bia i Seomra Coiste 4, TL2000, ar 10 a.m.

Meeting of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in Committee Room 4, LH2000, at 10 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Rialála Geilleagair i Seomra Coiste 3, TL2000, ar 10.30 a.m.

Meeting of the Joint Committee on Economic Regulatory Affairs in Committee Room 3, LH2000, at 10.30 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Eorpacha i Seomra Coiste 4, TL2000, ar 2 p.m.

Meeting of the Joint Committee on European Affairs in Committee Room 4, LH2000, at 2 p.m.

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

Reachtúil:

Statutory:

1) An Ciste Náisiúnta um Cheannach
Cóireála. Tuarascáil Bhliantúil, 2008.

1) National Treatment Purchase Fund.
Annual Report, 2008.
