

Oireachtas Report



In the Dail this week the 2014 Redress for Women Resident in Certain Institutions Bill will be considered this coming Wednesday and Thursday.

The Seanad will address the 2014 Gender Recognition Bill on Wednesday and Thursday, whilst Committees will discuss the Garda Síochána (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2014 on Wednesday.

Government debt in euro zone falls for first time in fifteen consecutive quarters

Irish government debt-to-GDP ratio remains fourth highest

Quarterly data released from Eurostat, the EU statistics office, has shown that government debt within the Euro zone has fallen for the first time in 15 consecutive quarters, standing at 92.1 per cent of GDP in the third quarter of 2014.

Although figures show that Irish debt fell by 9.4 per cent between the third quarter of 2013 and 2014, the greatest decrease in the EU for this period, Ireland's debt-to-GDP ratio still remains the fourth highest in the EU, persisting at 124.2 per cent.

Ireland currently finds itself lying behind Greece (176 per cent), Italy (131.8 per cent) and Portugal (131.4 per cent). Estonia and Luxembourg have been noted as the member states with the lowest rates of debt, measuring in at 10.5 per cent and 22.9 per cent respectively, whilst Slovenia has recorded the greatest surge in in government debt, noting a rise of almost 17 per cent.

Ireland significantly above EU milk quota by end of 2014

Over quota position rises from 1.63 per cent at end of 2013 to 5.93 per cent at end of 2014

Simon Coveney TD, The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, has announced that the total volume of milk produced by the end of 2014 has left Ireland 5.93 per cent over quota. This figure represents a positive short-term downward trend in terms of the over-quota total, which dropped from 7.15 per cent in October 2014 to the current figure of 5.93 per cent by the end of December. However, this percentage is still markedly higher than the 1.63 per cent over-quota figure of December 2013.

The quota year is set to end on 31 March 2015, when EU milk quotas will be rescinded.

PAI Bog- Should the Fiscal Advisory Council shut-up shop?

Tom Ferris writes for this weeks PAI Blog- Read here:

<http://tinyurl.com/omvkqya>

DAIL

Tuesday January 27th

Wednesday January 28th

Thursday January 29th

2.00 p.m.
Questions (Minister for Education and Skills)

3.15 p.m.
Leaders Questions

3.36 p.m.
Questions (Taoiseach)

4.36 p.m.
Order of Business
Motion re PQ Rota Change (Department of Finance and Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)

Motions re Aviation Agreement (Back from Committee) (without Debate) (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

Post European Council Statements (to conclude within 85 minutes)

Motions (3) re Association Agreements with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine (Back from Committee) (to conclude within 20 minutes) (Department of Foreign Affairs)

6.30 p.m.
Topical Issues

7.30 p.m.
Private Members Business: (Fianna Fáil)

9.00 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

9.30 a.m.
Questions (Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government)

10.45 a.m.
Motion re Proposed Commission of Investigation into Certain Matters relating to the Cavan/Monaghan Division of the Garda Síochána (to conclude within 2 hours) (Department of Justice and Equality)

12.00 noon
Leaders Questions
Messages of Sympathy John Carty RIP

12.21 p.m.
Order of Business

12.51 p.m.
SOS (1 Hour)

1.51 p.m.
Topical Issues

2.39 p.m.
Motion re Proposed Commission of Investigation into Certain Matters relating to the Cavan/Monaghan Division of the Garda Síochána (Resumed to conclude within 2 hours) (Department of Justice and Equality)

Motion re Foreign Trade Agreements between the E.U, Colombia and Peru (Back from Committee) (to conclude within 1 hour) (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

Irish Collective Asset-management Vehicles Bill 2014 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Finance)

Redress for Women Resident in Certain Institutions Bill 2014 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)

5.30 p.m.
Motion re Draft Order for the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes (Resumed to conclude at 7.30pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Children and Youth Affairs)

7.30 p.m.
Private Members Business: (Fianna Fáil)

9.00 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

9.30 a.m.
Questions (Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)

10.45 a.m.
Redress for Women Resident in Certain Institutions Bill 2014 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)

12.00 noon
Leaders Questions

12.21 p.m.
Order of Business

Redress for Women Resident in Certain Institutions Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Justice and Equality)

2.30 p.m.
Central Bank (Amendment) Bill 2014 (Seanad) - All Stages (Department of Finance)

4.42 p.m.
Topical Issues

SEANAD

Tuesday January 27th

Wednesday January 28th

Thursday January 29th

2.30 p.m.
Commencement Matters

3.30 p.m.
Order of Business

4.45 p.m.
Motion regarding Draft Order for the Commission of the Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes (Department of Children and Youth Affairs)

6.00 p.m.
Statements on the National Broadband Plan, An Post Business Development Group and Energy White Paper (Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)

8.00 p.m.
Seanad Adjourns

10.30 a.m.
Commencement Matters

12.00 noon
Order of Business

1.15 p.m.
Tributes to former Senator John Carty RIP

2.30 p.m.
Gender Recognition Bill 2014 – Second Stage (resumed) (Department of Social Protection)

4.30 p.m.

Private Members Business – Universities (Development and Innovation) (Amendment) Bill 2015 (Senator Sean Barrett)

6.30 p.m.
Seanad Adjourns

10.30 a.m.
Commencement Matters

12.00 noon
Order of Business

1.15 p.m.
Regulation of Lobbying Bill 2014 – Second Stage (Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform)

2.45 p.m.
Seanad Adjourns



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday January 27th

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 **1.30 p.m.** (T)

AGENDA: (i) Entrepreneurs, Women in the Tech Industry, Skill Needs and the need for Balanced Regional Development of entrepreneurial hubs [Representatives of Irish Exporters Association]; and (ii) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: Schedule B: COM(2014)576 and COM(2014)578 Proposals re the signing and provisional application and the conclusion of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the West African States, ECOWAS and the UEMOA, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part.

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 **2 p.m.** (T)

AGENDA: Pre-Legislative Scrutiny on the Draft Heads of the Finance (Tax Appeals Commission) Bill [Officials from the Department of Finance]

Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 **2.15 p.m.** (T)

AGENDA: Pre-Legislative Scrutiny on the General Scheme of the Planning and Development (No.1) Bill 2014 [Representatives from Dublin City Council; Cork County Council; Leitrim County Council; Local Authority Members' Association; and Association of Irish Local Government]

Health and Children (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 **4.30 p.m.** (T)

AGENDA: The challenge of rising costs of professional medical indemnity insurance (resumed) [Mr. Michael Boylan, Chairperson, The Medical Injuries Alliance; Mr. Ken Murphy, Director General, Law Society of Ireland; Mr. David Barniville SC, Chairman, Bar Council of Ireland, and Ms. Deirdre Courtney, as a concerned parent]

Wednesday January 28th

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 **9.30 a.m.** (T)

AGENDA: Public Hearing [Professor Edward Kane, Boston College on Banking and Banking Regulation]

Transport and Communications (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 **9.30 a.m.** (T)

AGENDA: (i) Engagement with Dr. Pauric Travers, Chairperson Designate, Broadcasting Authority of Ireland; and (ii) Engagement with Ms. Moya Doherty, Chairperson Designate, RTÉ

Justice, Defence and Equality (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 **10 a.m.**

AGENDA: Private Meeting

Education and Social Protection (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 **1p.m.** (T)

AGENDA: (i) Information Technology in Schools [Camara Ireland]; and (ii) Mapping the journey for people who are short-term unemployed - Report on Phase One of the Intreo Project [Department of Social Protection; and Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed (INOUI)]

European Scrutiny - Finance and Public Expenditure (Joint sub) CR4, LH 2000 **2 p.m.**

AGENDA: Private Meeting

Foreign Affairs and Trade (Select) CR1, LH 2000 **2.30 p.m.** (T)

AGENDA: 2015 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 27 (International Co-operation); and Vote 28 (Foreign Affairs and Trade) [Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Minister of State for Development, Trade Promotion and North South Co-operation; and Ministers of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade]

Justice, Defence and Equality (Select) CR2, LH 2000 **2.30 p.m.** (T)

AGENDA: Session A: 2.30 p.m.

2015 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 35 (Army Pensions); and Vote 36 (Defence) [Minister for Defence]; and

Session B: **4 p.m.**

Garda Síochána (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2014 [Minister for Justice and Equality]

Public Service, Oversight and Petitions (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 **4 p.m.** (T)

AGENDA: Concerns re the Tendering of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (Public Petition No. P00024/14) [Ms Deirdre McCarthy]

Thursday January 29th

9:30 a.m.

Health and Children (Joint) CR2, LH 2000

AGENDA: Session A: **9.30 a.m.**

The challenge of rising costs of professional medical indemnity insurance [Mr. Martin Varley, Secretary General, Irish Hospital Consultants Association; Ms. Susan Clyne, Irish Medical Organisation; Mr. Ciaran Breen, Director, State Claims Agency; and Mr. Simon Kayll, Chief Executive, Medical Protection Society]; and Session B: **11.30 a.m.**

EU Commission priorities and Irish Health and Food Safety matters [Mr. Vytenis Andriukaitis, EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety]

9:30 a.m.

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR3, LH 2000

AGENDA:

Private Meeting

10a.m.

Public Accounts CR1, LH 2000

AGENDA:

(i) Business of the Committee; and

(ii) a. Higher Education Authority Financial Statements 2013; and

b. Comptroller and Auditor General Special Report No 85: Accountability and Governance at the National College of Art and Design

[Officials from the Higher Education Authority; the Department of Education and Skills; and the National College of Art and Design]



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