

## Next week in the Oireachtas



Statements will be heard in the Dáil next week following the European Council Meetings taking place this week while further talks on the economy will commence on Wednesday and Thursday. Amongst the items on the agenda in the Seanad next week include questions and answers on Junior Cert reform and the Literacy and Numeracy Strategy. Mr Frank Daly, Chairman and Mr Brendan McDonagh, Chief Executive Officer NAMA will attend the Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Committee next week to provide an overview of operations and functioning of NAMA.

## Brian Hayes TD Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform delivers opening address at the PAI Conference Public Procurement: eProcurement and eInvoicing

Opening his address, the Minister said that “transparent public procurement is critical to achieving more efficient allocation of resources through increased competition, and helping the government and taxpayers to realise budgetary savings” and in this regard, reform of public sector procurement “is central to the Government’s reform agenda”.

The Government, he added, wants to make eProcurement “the rule rather than the exception”. The introduction and promotion of new eProcurement practices in line with international best practice will lead to: clearer transparency and visibility, reducing risks and driving compliance; audit trails, providing greater control over procurement, and the proactive management and measurement of procurement performance, according to the Minister.

Taking account of the SME sector, he added, one government objective “is to encourage the opportunities (SMEs) to tender for public sector contracts and an important element for government

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From Right to Left: Vincent Campbell, Director, National Procurement Service, Office of Public Works; Billy Noone, former official at the National Public Procurement Policy Unit (NPPPU), Department of Finance; Alain Deckers, Head of Unit, DG Internal Market C4 European Commission; Brian Hayes TD, Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform with Special Responsibility for the Office of Public Works; Edmund Gray, PEPPOL project technical lead in Ireland, IT Sligo; Padraig Harte, IT Sligo; and Don Bergin, Public Affairs Ireland

## Lucinda Creighton elected Vice President of the European People’s Party

Minister for European Affairs, Lucinda Creighton TD has been elected as Vice President of the European People’s Party (EPP), the largest and most influential European-level political party.

The announcement was made following the EPP’s two day Congress in Bucharest, Romania on Thursday October 18.

Ms Creighton secured the first of ten positions and fought off strong competition from other candidates including three EU Commissioners, a German Government

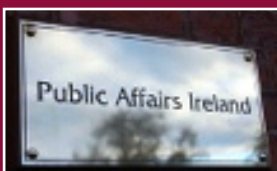
Minister and candidates representing the governing parties of Portugal, Sweden and Poland.

Speaking in Bucharest following her election Minister Creighton said: “This result is great recognition for the work we are doing. There is a really strong sense in the EPP of support for Ireland on our road to recovery. The position of Vice President presents a great opportunity to influence the biggest European party at the top level”.

The newly elected President of the EPP is

Wilfried Martens, former Prime Minister of Belgium, while the role of Secretary General was won by Spanish politician and Member of the European Parliament, Antonio Lopez-Isturiz.

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, and Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, will both serve alongside Minister Creighton as ex-officio Vice Presidents of the EPP.



Public Affairs  
Ireland  
25 Mountjoy  
Square East  
Dublin 1

Tel: 01 8198500  
Fax: 01 8944733  
E: [info@publicaffairsireland.com](mailto:info@publicaffairsireland.com)  
[www.publicaffairsireland.com](http://www.publicaffairsireland.com)  
[twitter.com/publicaffairsir](https://twitter.com/publicaffairsir)



in the roll out of eProcurement is to ensure that any technology solution links up with suppliers to the procurement system". He added: "In arriving at a solution, the Irish Government is working with other EU Member States so that, for the SME sector, the solutions provide opportunities for them to access wider markets, as well as driving cost savings to their business with government."

Outlining some achievements to date, the Minister mentioned the national portal, e-Tenders, an initiative that has proven "very successful". He also announced his intention to shortly officially announce details of an upgrade to this portal.

E-invoicing, the Minister said, is a "flagship initiative for this Government and we are one of the lead countries piloting electronic invoicing across the European Union". The Government "shares the Commission's desire to see eInvoicing become the predominant method

of invoicing by 2020 in Europe. Realising this vision requires careful planning, and not just a technological solution, but also organisational and legal solutions that advantage and not disadvantage the private sector."

At the beginning of 2012, the Minister "prioritised resources for the National Procurement Service to conduct a Pilot Project on eInvoicing and one that would investigate the use of PEPPOL (Pan-European Public Procurement Online), a European Commission initiative to provide an infrastructure to facilitate cross border commerce including eInvoicing.

He also established a National eInvoicing Forum to inform the pilot, and, inform the roll out of eInvoicing for the public sector. Ireland is also a key contributor to the EU National Stakeholder Forum on eInvoicing. The pilot aimed to adopt eInvoicing for the public sector using an open, competitive and transparent infrastructure which included proper

governance. The technical lead for the Irish pilot project was Edmund Gray, from Sligo IT, who also spoke at the conference. The seven Service Providers that took part in the Pilot Project signed a Governance agreement, which assured interoperability between the service providers.

This project, according to Minister Hayes, "has proven that suppliers can send invoices electronically to Government agencies irrespective of the formats used by the Government Agency or the supplier."

In conclusion, Minister Hayes said that "sometimes something that sounds simple, such as receiving an invoice electronically, can, when you explore the issues involved, become very complex". However, "by adopting the PEPPOL infrastructure as a means of transport for eInvoices into the public sector we are providing a solution that benefits private and public sector alike."



## Public Affairs Ireland Professional Development Presents



### Ireland's Presidency of the EU 2013

Special Half-Day Seminar, Friday November 9 2012, 9am to 1.30pm

#### Topics Include:

*Key policy issues*

*Liaison and coordination demands internally and externally*

*The distinction between Ireland as President and Ireland as Member State*

*Communication requirements nationally and at EU level*

*Resource requirements, provision, at a time of national Budget constraints*

On January 1 2013, Ireland will undertake the 6-month Presidency of the European Council for the seventh time, coinciding with the 40th Anniversary of Ireland's accession to the EU. Cyprus will assume the Presidency immediately preceding us with Lithuania assuming the Presidency directly after us.

*Public Affairs Ireland* is organising a tailored, focused and practical seminar that will address the main policy, institutional and logistical challenges that will arise. This seminar is taking place less than two months before the start of the Presidency, offering a final opportunity to evaluate the preparations currently in place to meet the expected challenges.

The forthcoming Presidency will be crucial in demonstrating Ireland's ability to manage the agenda of the EU in light of the current difficult times, and in the context of a newly revived debate on the future of Europe. Therefore, it is essential that our term in office is well-designed and effectively executed. But what will the Presidency mean for those working in the various government departments and agencies in addition to non-public-service bodies that have close EU involvement?

A smooth transition from the current Cypriot Presidency to the next Presidency 'trio' (Ireland, Lithuania and Greece), whose 18-month work programme is being prepared with Irish inputs, is in the pipeline but it is now time to take stock and put the finishing touches to our contribution to the contingency programme.

Please click [here](#) for more information or call us on 01 819 8500.

## Dáil

October 23	October 24	October 25
<p><b>2pm</b> Questions (Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government)</p> <p><b>3.15pm</b> Leaders Questions</p> <p><b>3.36pm</b> Questions (Taoiseach)</p> <p><b>4.36pm</b> Order of Business</p> <p><b>5.06pm</b> Topical Issues Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2008 Amendments from the Seanad (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform) Europol Bill 2012 Second Stage (resumed) (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p><b>7.30pm</b> Private Members Business</p>	<p><b>10.30am</b> Leaders Questions</p> <p><b>10.51am</b> Order of Business Statements post European Council Meeting (to conclude in 85 minutes if not previously concluded) Statements on the Economy (Department of Finance)</p> <p><b>1.30pm</b> SOS</p> <p><b>2.30pm</b> Questions (Minister for Justice and Equality)</p> <p><b>3.45pm</b> Topical Issues</p> <p><b>4.33pm</b> Morning business continued</p> <p><b>7.05pm</b> Motion re: Smithwick Tribunal (to conclude in 25 minutes if not previously concluded) (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p><b>7.30pm</b> Private Members</p>	<p><b>10.30am</b> Leaders Questions</p> <p><b>10.51am</b> Order of Business Motion re: Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Funding (without debate) Statements on the Economy (resumed) (to conclude at 4.30 pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Finance)</p> <p><b>4.30pm</b> Topical Issues</p> <p><b>5.18pm</b> Questions (Minister for Children and Youth Affairs)</p>

## Seanad

October 23	October 24	October 25
<p><b>2.30pm</b> Order of Business</p> <p><b>3.45pm</b> Statements and Questions and Answers on Junior Cert Reform and the Literacy and Numeracy Strategy [Minister for Education]</p>	<p><b>10.30am</b> Order of Business</p> <p><b>11.45am</b> Health Service Executive (Governance) Bill 2012 - Report Stage [Minister for Health]</p> <p><b>4.30pm</b> Private Members Business [Labour Senators]</p> <p><b>6.30pm</b> Motion regarding the Smithwick Tribunal (Amendment) to terms of reference - to conclude within 25 minutes [Minister for Justice and Equality]</p> <p><b>7pm</b> Statements on Social Protection (Resumed) [Minister for Social Protection]</p>	<p><b>10.30am</b> Order of Business</p> <p><b>11.45am</b> Statements post European Council Meeting – 18/19 October, 2012 [Minister of State for European Affairs]</p>

## Committee Meetings

October 23	October 24	October 25
<p><b>1.30pm</b> <b>Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation</b> Committee Room 2, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> Proposals for Enterprise Ireland's (EI)'s new Micro Enterprise and Small Business Unit, with specific reference to how it EI will liaise with the Local Authorities to replace the County Enterprise Boards (CEB)'s functions and assist small Irish exporting companies Session 1 (i) [Representatives from Enterprise Ireland] Session 2 (ii) [Representatives from the Irish Small and Medium Enterprises Association (ISME); and Small Firms Association (SFA)]</p> <p><b>2pm</b> <b>Public Accounts</b> Committee Room 1, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> (i) <b>Review of political allowances [Department of Public Expenditure and Reform; and Houses of the Oireachtas Commission]; and</b> (ii) <b>4pm - Review of civil service allowances [Department of Public Expenditure and Reform]</b></p> <p><b>2pm</b> <b>Agriculture, Food and the Marine</b> Committee Room 3, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals and (ii) Farm Management IT Systems [Representatives from Teagasc and ICBF]</p> <p><b>2.15pm</b> <b>Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht</b> Committee Room 4, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> (i) Towards a New National Climate Policy: Interim Report of the NESC Secretariat [Dr Rory O'Donnell, Director, National Economic and Social Council]; and (ii) Comprehensive Action Programme for the Reform of Local Government - Putting People First</p>	<p><b>9.30am</b> <b>Transport and Communications</b> Committee Room 4, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b></p> <p><b>10am</b> <b>Education and Social Protection</b> Committee Room 3, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> (i) Education and Training Boards Bill 2012 [Teachers' Union Of Ireland (TUI); National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA); and Irish Vocational Education Association (IVEA)]; and (ii) Engagement with Mr John Monahan, Chairman Designate, Grangegorman Development Agency</p> <p><b>11am</b> <b>Justice, Defence and Equality</b> Committee Room 2, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> Civil Defence Board -Its role today and future plans</p> <p><b>11am</b> <b>Public Accounts</b> Committee Room 1, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> 2011 Appropriation Accounts of the Comptroller and Auditor General Vote 26: Education and Skills – Review of allowances.</p> <p><b>2pm</b> <b>Penal Reform (Sub-Committee of the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality)</b> Committee Room 2, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> Submissions on Penal Reform</p> <p><b>2pm</b> <b>Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform</b> Committee Room 4, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> Overview of operations and functioning of NAMA</p> <p><b>2.30pm</b> <b>Foreign Affairs and Trade</b> Committee Room 3, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in international development</p>	<p><b>9.30am</b> <b>Health and Children</b> Committee Room 2, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> (i) The Health Insurance Sector in Ireland [Health Insurance Authority]; and (ii) Risk Equalisation, Universal Healthcare and the Health Insurance Sector [VHI Healthcare; Aviva Health Insurance; Laya Healthcare; and Glo Health]</p> <p><b>10am</b> <b>Agriculture, Food and the Marine</b> Committee Room 4, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> 2013 Allocation for public expenditure - Agriculture, Food and the Marine [Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine]</p> <p><b>10am</b> <b>Public Accounts</b> Committee Room 1, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> 2011 Appropriation Accounts of the Comptroller and Auditor General Vote 19: Justice and Equality – Review of allowances</p> <p><b>2pm</b> <b>European Union Affairs</b> Committee Room 2, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> Private Meeting</p>

## Education & Training

Public Affairs Ireland provides a range of training courses and seminars on public affairs and regulatory matters. Both our training courses and seminars are taught by leading experts in each relevant discipline, who bring a sharp practical focus to our events.

**Please click here for a schedule of our Autumn/Winter 2012 events, or call us on 01 819 8500 for more information.**