
The Report states that it is the finding of the Committee that members of the travelling community are “de facto, a separate ethnic group”, and should be recognised as such. It is the Committee’s recommendation that An Taoiseach make a statement outlining this recognition at the earliest possible date in 2017.

A review should then be called, which would include input from Traveller representative groups. The review would also highlight any legislative changes that would be required in order to usher in the recognition of this defined ethnic group.

While other bodies and Committees have recommended this change be put into legislation, previous Governments have failed to ratify it.

You can read the Report here.

Notice of Appointments and Available Public Positions

Wednesday 25 January 2017

Seán Kelly MEP was appointed to the European Parliament’s Committee on Fisheries.

Mr Kelly is a member of the European Parliament for Ireland South. He is also the only Irish MEP that is a member of the International Trade Committee. Previous awards include MEP of the Year for Research 2012 and MEP of the Year for Digital Agenda for 2014. He is a member of Fine Gael, and the European People’s Party. Previous positions include the role of Executive Chair at the Irish Institute of Sport.

Available

The Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) are currently advertising a position for Deputy Director of Investigations.

The chosen candidate, in the main, “will lead high profile investigations of critical incidents and manage and develop investigation teams”, but will also be tasked with “developing and implementing GSOC’s investigative strategy”.

This position will be based in Dublin. Details on the required qualifications and experience can be found on the job listing. The closing date for applications will be 3.00pm, Thursday 16 February, 2017.

The job is advertised on publicjobs.ie and can be viewed here.

Traveller ethnicity should be recognised in law

Bill for better use of minerals scheduled for discussion

This week, Dáil discussion will take place on the Second Stage of the Minerals Development Bill 2015 [Seanad]. This Bill was first presented in the Seanad on 7 July 2015, and was passed by the members of the lower house on 14 September 2015.

The Bill’s main purpose is it “further and better provision for the development of minerals in the State”, and repeal amend relevant Acts that correlate to the same.

You can view the Bill here.
ILM Certificate in Leadership
Level 6 Award
3 Days: Wednesday 15, Thursday 16 and Friday 17 February
Dublin

During this three-day course, attendees will learn how their individual traits and characteristics can be best used when leading a team. Theory won’t just be read and forgotten, but put to practice in a hands-on approach to all manner of leadership scenarios. By the end of the course, participants will feel confident in leading people in a work environment.

This course is led by Ashley Hughes, a training and development specialist with over fifteen years’ experience working in both academic education and management development arenas.

For more information on Ashley, the course, or to book click here
Update Series 2017

Update: Revised Disciplinary Codes
Tuesday 31 January
Click here for more information

Updates in Legal Discovery
Tuesday 31 January
Click here for more information

Updates in Sale and Development of Public Lands
Friday 17 February
Click here for more information

Updates in Legal Professional Privilege
Thursday 23 February
Click here for more information

Update: Revised Paternity Rights & the Consolidation, with amendments, of all of the Family Leave Legislation
Wednesday 1 March
Click here for more information

Update: Whistleblowers and Protected Disclosure
Friday 3 March
Click here for more information

Updates in Regulatory Impact Analyses
Friday 10 March
Click here for more information
Tuesday 31 January

2.00 p.m.
Leaders’ Questions (FF, SF, RIG, SD-GP) (32 mins)

2.32 p.m.
Order of Business (30 mins)
Motion re. Eighth Report of the Committee of Selection (without debate)
Motion re. Referral to Joint Committee of proposed approval by Dáil Éireann for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA of 25 October 2004 laying down minimum provisions on the constituent elements of criminal acts and penalties in the field of illicit drug trafficking, as regards the definition of drug (Department of Health) (without debate)

3.02 p.m.
Taoiseach’s Questions (45 mins)

3.47 p.m.
Parliamentary Questions: Oral - Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (90 mins)

5.17 p.m.
Topical Issues (48 mins)
Private Notice Question (if any)

6.05 p.m.
Government Business: (115 mins)
Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)

8.00 p.m.
Private Members Business (Fianna Fáil): Motion re. Bus Éireann

10.00 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Wednesday 1 February

10.00 a.m.
Statements on the Establishment of a Commission of Investigation into NAMA (120 mins)

12.00 p.m.
Leaders’ Questions (FF, SF, AAA-PBP, I4C) (32 mins)

12.32 p.m.
Questions on Promised Legislation (30 mins)

1.02 p.m.
Taoiseach’s Questions (45 mins)

1.47 p.m.
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Health (90 mins)

3.17 p.m.
Topical Issues (48 mins)
Private Notice Question (if any)

4.05 p.m.
SOS

4.45 p.m.
Private Members Business (Rural Independent Group): Motion re. Roads Funding (120 mins)

6.45 p.m.
Government Business: (210 mins)
Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill 2015 (Seanad) - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Justice and Equality)
Minerals Development Bill 2015 (Seanad) - Second Stage (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment)
Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 - Second Stage resumed (Department of Justice and Equality)

10.15 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Thursday 2 February

12.00 p.m.
Leaders’ Questions (FF, SF, LAB, I4C) (32 mins)

12.32 p.m.
Questions on Promised Legislation (15 mins)

12.47 p.m.
Weekly divisions (43 minutes)

1.30 p.m.
Government Business: (120 mins)
Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill 2015 (Seanad) - Report and Final Stages resumed (Department of Justice and Equality)
Minerals Development Bill 2015 (Seanad) - Second Stage (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment)
Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 - Second Stage resumed (Department of Justice and Equality)

3.30 p.m.
Parliamentary Questions: Oral - Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (90 mins)

5.00 p.m.
Topical Issues (48 mins)
Private Notice Question (if any)

5.48 p.m.
Committee Report/ PMB: Report on Garda Oversight and Accountability - Joint Committee on Justice and Equality (120 mins)

7.48 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns
Tuesday 31 January

2.30 p.m.
Commencement Matters

3.30 p.m.
Order of Business
(Department of Health)

4.45 p.m.
Adoption (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Committee Stage (Minister for Children and Youth Affairs)

Wednesday 1 February

10.30 a.m.
Commencement Matters

11.30 a.m.
Order of Business

12.45 p.m.
Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 - Second Stage - (Minister for Health)

3.00 p.m.
Knowledge Development Box (Certification of Inventions) Bill 2016 - Report and Final Stages - (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

4.30 p.m.
Private Members Business - Convictions for Certain Sexual Offences (Apology and Exoneration) Bill 2016 – Second Stage (Senators Ged Nash, Ivana Bacik, Kevin Humphreys, Aodháin Ó Riordáin)

Thursday 2 February

10.30 a.m.
Commencement Matters

11.30 a.m.
Order of Business

2.00 p.m.
Statements on the Irish Language (Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs)
Tuesday 31 January

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 12.30 p.m.
AGENDA: EU State Aid Investigations into Tax Rulings [Ms. Margrethe Vestager, Commissioner for Competition, European Commission]

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint)
CR1, LH 2000 4 p.m.
AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals:
Schedule A: COM(2016)750 Geographical Indications - Spirit Drinks;
Schedule B: COM(2016)781 Fishing Opportunities - Black Sea; and
(ii) Challenges within the Organic Farming Sector
[Representatives from the Organic Farmers Representative Body]

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 4 p.m.
AGENDA: Hearings on the Banded Hours Contract Bill 2016 [PMB]
Session A: [Mr. David Cullinane T.D.]
Session B: [Representatives from Ibec, ISME, and Chambers Ireland]

Communications, Climate Action and Environment (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 5 p.m.
AGENDA: (i) Election of Vice-chairman
(iii) Policy issues arising from the Prohibition of the Exploration and Extraction of Onshore Petroleum Bill 2016 [PMB] and EPA led Joint Research Programme on the Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on the Environment and Human Health [Officials from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Geological Survey of Ireland; Environmental Protection Agency; and consortium led by COM Smith Ireland Limited]

Thursday 2 February

Health (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: General Practitioner issues in a properly functioning Primary Care service [Representatives from the Irish College of General Practitioners; the Irish Medical Organisation; and the National Association of General Practitioners]

Public Accounts
CR3, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee;
(ii) OAG Special Report 93: Annualised Hours of the Prison Service Appropriation Accounts 2015
Vote 21: Prisons
[Representatives from the Department of Justice and Equality]

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 10 a.m.
AGENDA: EU State Aid Investigations into Tax Rulings (resumed)
Session A - 10 a.m: Minister for Finance; and
Session B - 11.30 a.m: Mr Niall Cody, Chairman, Office of the Revenue Commissioners]

Dáil Business
R160 5-Storey Block 10.30 a.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Wednesday 1 February

Future of Healthcare (Select)
CR3, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: Health Service Reform [Mr. Phelim Quinn, Chief Executive Officer, Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA)]

Justice and Equality (joint)
CR2, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: Scrutiny of EU Legislative Proposal - Schedule A CDM (2016) 723 Insolvency and Restructuring
Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government(joint) CR1, LH 2000 9.30 a.m.
AGENDA: Vacant Housing, Derelict Sites and Underused Spaces
Session A: [Dr. Lorcan Sirr, Dublin Institute of Technology, and Mr Pat Doyle, Chief Executive Officer of the Peter Mc Verry Trust]
Session B: [Representatives from the Housing Agency and County and City Management Association (CCMA)]
Future Funding of Domestic Water Services (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 1.30 p.m.
AGENDA: Public Engagement and Transparency [Representatives from the Public Water Forum]

Transport, Tourism and Sport (Joint)
CR3, LH 2000 1.30 p.m.
AGENDA: Session A: 1.30 p.m. Sport in Ireland: Challenges, Strategies and Governance (resumed)
[Mr. Shane Ross, T.D., Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport and Mr. Patrick O’Donovan, T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Tourism and Sport]
Session B: 3.00 p.m. Current financial situation within Bus Éireann and the Expressway Service (resumed) [Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport]

European Union Affairs (Joint)
CR1, LH 2000 2 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 2.15 p.m.
AGENDA: Céard a theastaíonn a dhéanamh chun pobal tuaithe inmharthana a chaomhnú (atógáil) [Íonadaí An tÚdarrás Náisiúnta Iompair, Bus Éireann agus Iarnród Éireann]
What it takes to sustain a viable rural community (resumed) [Representatives of National Transport Authority, Bus Éireann and Iarnród Éireann]

Working Group of Committee Chairmen
CR1, LH 2000 4 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting