

Executive Board Minutes Meeting 7th June 2016

Attendance: Ann Nolan (Chair), John Hogan, Aidan Carrigan, Nicholas O'Brien, Des Carville, Paul Ryan, Niall O'Ceallaigh, David Byrne, Mary Carrick (Secretary).

Apologies: Derek Moran, John McCarthy, Gary Tobin.

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising, Government Memos

In addition to the Communications diary, the following was discussed.

The NAMA annual report will be launched on Wednesday with the Minister in attendance. The Minister will be visiting the German Finance Minister on Friday. The Minister of State Murphy will present second stage of the Single Resolution Board Loan Facility Agreement Bill, 2016 in the Dáil. IFAC will publish its Fiscal Assessment Report, June 2016 on Wednesday. This week's Dáil private member's business relates to insurance and the Minister will be in attendance on Wednesday and the MoS will in attendance for the conclusion on Thursday. Senior Officials will attend the Cabinet Subcommittee on Homelessness and Housing later in the week. Government Memos for this week's Cabinet meeting were discussed.

The minutes of the previous Executive Board 30th May were amended and agreed.

2. Dashboard Summary including discussion on:

2.1 Weekly Schedule (Dáil, Seanad, Committees)

Members reviewed the weekly schedule of business for the Dáil, Seanad and Oireachtas Committees. All Divisions are requested to monitor schedule in relation to issues relevant to the Department of Finance.

2.2 PPSM

The members noted the commencement of the 5th PPSM which is due to conclude on the 10th June. An update on the arrangements for the programme was provided.

2.3 Article IV Mission

Members discussed and endorsed the arrangements in relation to the IMF Article IV review which is scheduled to take place from the 13th to 23rd June. Invitations to staff to attend relevant meetings will issue promptly.

2.4 Brexit Update

The Members discussed the impending referendum in the UK and noted preparations in relation to the possible outcome. It was noted that the Department is working closely with the Department of the Taoiseach on the issue.

2.5. Summer Economic Statement

Summer Economic Statement will be laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas in June. The Statement will outline the fiscal space available and will feed into the discussions which will be held at the National Economic Dialogue which will take place on the 27th and 28th June in Dublin Castle.

Actions:

- All Divisions are requested to monitor Weekly Schedule (Dáil, Seanad, Committees) schedule– All Ass.Secs
- Invitations to staff to attend relevant meetings re Article IV Mission to be issued to staff.
- Mr Ryan

3. AOB

Preparation in relation to the National Economic Dialogue were noted.

4. Corporate**4.1 Bodies under the Aegis of the Department – update**

An update on the Department's Governance role in relation to Bodies under the Aegis of the Department was provided. A Workshop attended by relevant coordinators was held in the Department which provide a useful opportunity to promote the Department's requirement for effective Governance practices with regard to the Bodies under the Aegis of the Department.

4.2 Compliance Training

A discussion on a proposal to procure training in relation to data protection, freedom of information and procurement and to procure an automated compliance policy management system took place. It was agreed that further clarification is required in advance of a decision.

Actions:

- Provide further clarification in relation to the proposal on training and automated compliance policy management. Submission to be provided to Secretary General and Second Secretary. – Mr Ryan



Ann Nolan
Second Secretary

Executive Board Minutes Meeting 13th June 2016

Attendance: Derek Moran (Chair), Ann Nolan, John Hogan, Nicholas O'Brien, Des Carville, Paul Ryan, John McCarthy, Gary Tobin, Niall O'Ceallaigh, David Byrne, Derek Tierney (Secretary).

Apologies: Aidan Carrigan.

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising, Government Memos

In addition to the Communications diary, the following was discussed.

There is a scheduled engagement between the Minister, who will be accompanied by senior officials, and the Select Committee on Arrangements for Budgetary Scrutiny this Wednesday. The Minister and senior officials will travel to Eurogroup and ECOFIN later in the week. Government Memos for this week's Cabinet meeting were discussed. Officials will also attend the ESRI Budget Perspectives conference on Friday. Members discussed the impending referendum in the UK and noted preparations in relation to the possible outcome. It was noted that the Department is working closely with the Department of the Taoiseach on the issue.

The minutes of the previous Executive Board 07th June were agreed.

2. Dashboard Summary including discussion on:

2.1 Weekly Schedule (Dáil, Seanad, Committees)

Members reviewed the weekly schedule of business for the Dáil, Seanad and Oireachtas Committees. All Divisions are requested to monitor schedule in relation to issues relevant to the Department.

Action:

- Confirm Dáil legislative agenda including items reinstated since the dissolution of the last Dáil – Mr Tierney

2.2. Summer Economic Statement

Members discussed the fiscal and macroeconomic parameters set out in the Summer Economic Statement that will be laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas in June. The Statement will feed into the discussions which will be held at the National Economic Dialogue which will take place on the 27th and 28th June in Dublin Castle.

2.3 PPSM

The 5th Post Programme Surveillance (PPS) review mission took place last week with officials from the Department of Finance, the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform, the Central Bank of Ireland, and the NTMA meeting officials from the European Commission and the ECB. Officials from the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) and the SSM (Single Supervisory Mechanism) were also in attendance. The purpose of the review was to evaluate the continued viability of our economic framework and our ability to repay the loans we have received. The meetings covered a wide range of topics, including fiscal policy, financial sector developments and the macroeconomic outlook. These ranged from technical discussions at official level to broad policy discussions at senior

official level. Members noted the successful conclusion of the review mission and acknowledged and thanked staff for their efforts over the past weeks.

2.4 Article IV Mission

Members discussed the arrangements in relation to the IMF Article IV review which commenced earlier in the morning and the discussions at the opening meeting with the review team.

2.5 Central Bank Macro-Financial Review

Members discussed the Macro-Financial Review (MFR), which is prepared bi-annually each June and December, by the Central Bank of Ireland. This Review provides an overview of the current state of the macro-financial environment and an assessment of key risks to financial stability in Ireland. The first Macro-Financial Review of 2016 is due to be published mid-June. Members noted that the Department in general supports the analysis of the Central Bank in terms of the MFR and discussed the observations returned.

Action:

- Table MFR at Risk Committee to confirm financial stability risks are aligned with the internal analysis of financial risks which the Department report on, both internally (risk committee) and externally (national risk assessment) – Mr P Ryan.

2.6 National Economic Dialogue.

Members noted discussions at the previous meeting of Government and those preparations that are advancing for the National Economic Dialogue that will take place on June 27th & 28th in Dublin Castle. Some 300 delegates are expected at the event which comprises plenary sessions and 9 breakout sessions. The event will be attended by An Taoiseach and a number of cabinet ministers.

2.7 Eurogroup/ECOFIN

Feedback was provided to members from the EFC/EWG Informal meeting on the 09th and 10th June. The predictability of Eurostat decisions was raised by senior officials attending at the EFC on Friday last and discussed separately with the incoming Slovakian Presidency. The Presidency has agreed that work will be done on this at official level, with a view to preparing a discussion by Ministers at ECOFIN.

On Thursday 16th June it is expected that Eurogroup will deal with Inflation and Exchange Rate developments, a thematic discussion on Growth and Jobs, Pension Sustainability in the euro area and IMF Article IV Review of the Euro Area. On Friday 17th June it is expected that the ECOFIN Council will deal with Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive, Enhanced Cooperation in the area of Financial Transaction Tax, Strengthening of the Banking Union and possibly agenda items may also include Prospectus Regulation, Money Market Funds, Implementation of the Banking Union, Fight against the financing of terrorism, Analysis by Commission on temporary VAT derogations (reverse charge mechanism), Business Taxation matters and the Report of the European Court of Auditors on the Excessive Deficit Procedure Contribution to the European Council meeting on 28-29 June 2016.

3. AOB

It was noted that there will be a Departmental Council meeting this Wednesday.

4. Corporate

4.1 EU General Data Protection Regulation

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will have direct effect from 25 May 2018. The Department of Justice and Equality is responsible for transposing the Directive into national law. Members noted recent discussions at the Inter-Departmental meeting on Data Protection, and existing arrangements in place in the Department to meet the requirement of the Regulation, which requires that public authorities and bodies must designate a Data Protection Officer.

4.2 C&AG examination of Government debt and NTMA A/Cs

Members noted that the Comptroller and Auditor General has decided to undertake an examination of Government Debt. Under Section 12 of the NTMA Act the Comptroller and Auditor General is required to report to Dáil Éireann to the correctness of the sums brought by the NTMA each year. In this regard, the Comptroller and Auditor General has also decided to include a chapter on the Accounts of the NTMA in his 2015 Report on the Accounts of the Public Service.

4.3 Tacit Knowledge

Members approved proposals to participate in a survey being offered to by the University of Limerick (UL) utilising their 'Knowledge Insights Inventory' that looks to measure and benchmark how effective an organisation is at harnessing that collective experience and knowledge.



Derek Moran
Secretary General

Executive Board Minutes Meeting 20th June 2016

Attendance: Derek Moran (Chair), Ann Nolan, John Hogan, Nicholas O'Brien, Aidan Carrigan Des Carville, Gary Tobin, Sean Kinsella, David Byrne, Derek Tierney (Secretary).

Apologies: Paul Ryan, John McCarthy, Niall O'Ceallaigh.

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising, Government Memos

In addition to the Communications diary, the following was discussed.

The Government meeting on Tuesday will discuss the Summer Economic Statement 2016 (SES) and will be asked to approve its publication with statements before the Dáil scheduled for Thursday. Minister Noonan will also speak at the Irish Funds Global Conference scheduled for Thursday. Minister of State Eoghan Murphy chaired the IFS high-level implementation committee earlier in the morning.

The minutes of the previous Executive Board 13th June were agreed and progress on action items was noted.

2. Dashboard Summary including discussion on:

2.1 Weekly Schedule (Dáil, Seanad, Committees)

Members reviewed the weekly schedule of business for the Dáil, Seanad and Oireachtas Committees. All Divisions are requested to monitor schedule in relation to issues relevant to the Department.

2.2. Summer Economic Statement

Members noted that the Government meeting on Tuesday will discuss the Summer Economic Statement 2016 (SES) and will be asked to approve its publication subject to any factual changes with statements before the Dáil scheduled for Thursday. Members discussed the SES that sets out the Government's economic and fiscal strategy over the short and medium term and that includes the macroeconomic outlook as set out in the Stability Programme Update (SPU), and an assessment of the impact of use of fiscal space on the budgetary aggregates and headline GDP. It also sets out the key elements of the Government's economic strategy covering sound public finances and a stable and broad tax base, a supportive environment for enterprise and employment, more investment in economic, regional and social infrastructure and a just and fair society and a more inclusive prosperity.

The fiscal projections have been updated to reflect slightly higher expenditure growth this year as well as the higher-than-expected taxation receipts and strong PRSI performance in the year-to-date, which are now forecast to be around €900 million and €100 million, respectively, higher in 2016 than originally projected. The higher-than-assumed level of expenditure this year could add around 0.1 percentage points to the level of economic activity on the basis of an otherwise unchanged outlook.

The Government's medium term fiscal strategy is to 'balance the books' by 2018, once account is taken of the economic cycle on the public finances. The Government has adopted a medium term budgetary objective (MTO) of a structural deficit of 0.5 per cent of GDP, in accordance with the three-year update by the European Commission.

The Programme for a Partnership Government includes a commitment to establish a 'rainy day' fund. Therefore, once the MTO is achieved in 2018 it is proposed to remit € 1 billion per annum of the available fiscal space post-2018 to the rainy day fund.

2.3 Article IV Mission

Members discussed the ongoing arrangements in relation to the IMF Article IV review which commenced last week and the intervening discussions with the review team.

2.4 National Economic Dialogue

Members noted discussions at the previous meeting of Government and those preparations that are advancing for the National Economic Dialogue (NED) that will take place on June 27th & 28th in Dublin Castle. Some 300 delegates are expected at the event which comprises plenary sessions and 9 breakout sessions. The event will be attended by An Taoiseach and nine cabinet ministers. As discussed earlier in the meeting, the SES forms a key element of the reformed budgetary process by providing a policy background for the discussions in the Dáil and subsequently at the NED.

2.5 Brexit

Members discussed the impending referendum in the UK and noted preparations in relation to the possible outcome. It was noted that the Department has carried out a number of work streams ranging from research with the ESRI and more recently, consultation with the financial services sector. The Department of Finance has engaged with the Department of Taoiseach with the Inter-departmental Group of senior officials having met on a number of occasions to prepare messaging and risk planning. The Department also continues to work closely with the Central Bank, the NTMA and Revenue on the issue. It is expected that the Cabinet will meet on Friday morning to discuss the referendum result as it unfolds.

As noted earlier in the meeting, the SES makes particular reference to the risks associated with the forthcoming UK referendum on EU membership. It includes, at Box 2 in the text, a summary assessment of recent estimates of the potential macroeconomic impact of a decision by the UK to leave the EU. Combining results from a range of analysis suggests that Irish GDP could fall by 0.5 – 1.2 per cent, relative to the baseline, in the event of such a decision.

2.6 Government Legislative Agenda

Members discussed the paper before them. It was noted that the process for updating the Dáil on promised legislation each sitting day has changed in that the Taoiseach can now refer questions on promised legislation to the relevant Minister who is expected to be in the Chamber and respond.

Action:

- Arrange to have a rolling brief prepared for the Minister on all Departmental promised legislation – Mr MacDonncha

3. AOB

Feedback was provided from the previous weeks Eurogroup and ECONFIN meetings.

4. Corporate

4.1 Governance Review

The Executive Board will meet in the coming weeks to finalise the governance review recently initiated.

4.2 Women's Executive Network (WXN) Awards

Members extended congratulations to Ann Nolan Second Secretary who was named Woman of the Year in the Public Sector category by the Women's Executive Network (WXN) at their Awards Gala. This is a wonderful achievement for Ann and the Department as the WXN make the awards to celebrate the accomplishments of Ireland's remarkable and most powerful women. The Women's Executive Network creates and delivers innovative networking, mentoring, professional and personal development to support and recognise executive-minded women and their organisations in the pursuit of excellence, in Canada and Ireland.



Derek Moran
Secretary General

Executive Board Minutes Meeting 29th June 2016

Attendance: Derek Moran (Chair), Ann Nolan, John Hogan, Aidan Carrigan, Des Carville, Gary Tobin, David Byrne, Derek Tierney (Secretary).

Apologies: Nicholas O'Brien, Paul Ryan, John McCarthy, Niall O'Ceallaigh, Sean Kinsella.

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising, Government Memos

In addition to the Communications diary, the following was discussed.

The National Economic Dialogue was held on Monday and Tuesday of this week. The Minister is scheduled to meet CUAC to discuss their review of the implementation of Recommendations of the Commission on Credit Union. Minister of State Eoghan Murphy is expected to attend the BPFI forum and the IFS Education and Skills forum later in the week. The Minister of State will also take the Single Resolution Bill (SRB) through second stage later in the week. Members noted that this week's Dáil private member's business relates to NAMA and the Revised Estimates 2016 for Vote 7 where the Minister will be in attendance. Senior Officials will attend the Cabinet Subcommittee on Homelessness and Housing later in the week.

The minutes of the previous Executive Board 20th June were agreed and progress on action items was noted.

2. Dashboard Summary including discussion on:

2.1 Weekly Schedule (Dáil, Seanad, Committees)

Members reviewed the weekly schedule of business for the Dáil, Seanad and Oireachtas Committees. All Divisions are requested to monitor schedule in relation to issues relevant to the Department.

2.2 National Economic Dialogue

Members noted those discussions at National Economic Dialogue (NED) that took place on June 27th & 28th in Dublin Castle. Some 250 delegates attended the event which comprises plenary sessions and 9 breakout sessions. The event was also attended by An Taoiseach and a number of cabinet ministers. Members acknowledged all those who contributed to ensuring that the event was a success.

2.3 Brexit

Members discussed the outcome of the referendum in the UK and noted those preparations in hand by the Department who continues to work closely with the Central Bank, the NTMA and Revenue on the issue. Members considered that in time the task of negotiating the Article 50 withdrawal agreement and new EU-UK relationship will require new structures to be put in place and these will be considered further. The existing PO Brexit group will be an important clearing house for operational issues and the EU Strategy Group will offer overall coordination. Depending on the pace of negotiations, there may be a need to meet on a more regular basis to consider domestic, bilateral and EU level issues.

2.4 Legislative Programme Update

Members discussed the paper before them setting out a status update on Private Members Bills currently before the Oireachtas which concern this Department. It was noted that the process for updating the Dáil on promised legislation each sitting day has changed in that the Taoiseach can now refer questions on promised legislation to the relevant Minister who is expected to be in the Chamber and respond.

Action:

- Arrange for regular update to members on the status of Private Members Bills – Mr MacDonncha

2.5 Policy Committee Update

Members noted those recent agenda items and discussions at Policy Committee for 25 April, 16 May and 20 June.

3. AOB

The next phase of the Fire & Electrical system upgrade works is planned to commence on the ground floor from 21st July. It was noted that engagement with OPW is progressing in relation to additional capacity to accommodate emerging needs.

It was noted that the Health & Safety Authority (HSA) intend to conduct a review of safety management arrangements scheduled for the 12th August.

4. Corporate

4.1 Department Budget & Finance Update

Members reviewed the paper outlining an end May operating budget position. A detailed review will be completed at end H2 which will inform the Budget Estimates for 2017.

Members discussed ongoing considerations in relation to the new Financial Management Shared Service (FMSS) that is due to go live early 2018 and the consequent organisational changes where staff will transition from current functions (to the National Shared Service Office) and locations.



Derek Moran
Secretary General