

CAITH DO VÓTA LEIS AN nGAEILGE

FREAGRA NA nIARRTHÓIRÍ DO PHARLAIMINT AN AONTAIS EORPAIGH AR CHEISTEANNA NA GAEILGE

1. (a) Má thoghtar mar chomhalta de Pharlaimint na hEorpa tú, an labhróidh tú Gaeilge go rialta agus mar ghnáthchleachtas sa Pharlaimint?

nó

(b) Muna bhfuil tú compordach le caighdeán do chuid Gaeilge, an gcuirfidh tú feabhas ar do chuid Gaeilge trí ranganna Gaeilge a ghlacadh / cúrsa féin-foghlaim ar líne a dhéanamh chun a chinntiú go mbeidh do dhóthain Gaeilge agat chun ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar Éirinn san Aontas Eorpach ag baint úsáid as an bpríomhtheanga náisiúnta?

1. (a) If you are elected as a Member of the European Parliament, are you willing to speak Irish regularly and as common practice in Parliament?

nó

(b) If you are not comfortable with your own standard of Irish, will you improve upon your level of Irish by taking classes or a self-taught online course so as to ensure that you will have sufficient Irish to represent Ireland in the EU using the country's first national language?

2. An gcabhróidh tú le deireadh a chur leis an maolú maidir le stádas na Gaeilge san Aontas Eorpach (AE) trí bhrú a chur ar Rialtas na hÉireann agus ar an Aontas Eorpach chuige sin?

2. Will you campaign to end the derogation in place with regard to the Irish language's status in the EU, by putting pressure on the EU and the Government of Ireland to achieve this?

ANSWERS FROM CANDIDATES FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS ON IRISH LANGUAGE ISSUES

FREAGRAÍ NA nIARRTHÓIRÍ THÍOS

ANSWERS FROM THE CANDIDATES BELOW

Alan Kelly



Please see a response below from Senator Alan Kelly.

Thank you for the questions. I have done my best to answer the questions as set out below.

I would not be comfortable with my standard of Irish to speak frequently or confidently in the European parliament, outside of the 'cúpla focail' This is something I would really like to improve upon and if elected to the EP I will endeavour to improve my standard so that our national tongue can be used at such an esteemed institution as the European parliament.

I would appreciate any information you would send me regarding the derogation in place. I would be supportive of any campaign that I would view as being positive for the Irish language and if I can ever be of any assistance to you or your campaign, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Alban Maginness



Please find my answers in response to your email of last week.

Many thanks,

Alban

1. As a non-Irish speaker I will do all I can to promote the use of the Irish language both in Europe and in the North of Ireland. I'm keen to develop a working knowledge of our native tongue and would certainly consider taking up lessons or using a teach-yourself course to do so. In the Assembly the SDLP has been campaigning to have a comprehensive rights-based Irish Language Act introduced which will guarantee the rights of Irish speakers over a wide range of public services. My colleague Dominic Bradley has introduced a private members bill on the Irish Language in response to the failure of the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure to develop an Irish Language Act.

2. We welcomed the move by the EU to give official and working status to the Irish language, but recognise that more needs to be done to promote the use of Irish across all Institutions of the EU. I will campaign in the EU for the remove this derogation so that translation services can be extended and ensure that all EU legislation can be translated into Irish, as opposed to the current position where only co-decision regulations are produced in Irish. The Irish language should have the same official and working status as all other European languages, and in the European Parliament I will work to achieve this position.

Barbara de Brún



Ar siúl aici go leanúnach.

Brian Crowley



Go raibh míle maith agat as ucht an t-am a ghlacadh scríobh chugam ar an ábhar seo.

Promotion of the Irish language is extremely important to me and it is a source of great pride to me that Irish has official status as a language of the EU. It is my great hope that Irish will no longer have to avail of the derogation and that the Irish language will enjoy full status. However, it has been shown with other languages that getting rid of the derogation before the foundations and framework are in place to cope with the demands of full status can put the status as a whole at risk. I am certainly an advocate for ending the derogation, but not until we are sure that we have the translators and lawyer-linguists available to cope with the implications of this. I hope we can raise awareness of the opportunities that Irish as an official EU language offers and that government, education bodies and Irish language organisations can work together to promote training of translators, interpreters and lawyer linguists. I am more than happy to do anything I can to advance this process and the Irish language in Europe.

De ghnáth déanaim iarracht ar a laghad cúpla abairt Gaeilge a labhairt gach uair a bhím ag labhairt sna seisiúin iomlánacha. Faoi láthair ní bheinn lánchompairdeach óráid iomlán a thabhairt as Gaeilge. Ba bhreá liom é seo a fheabhsú. Déanaim iarracht mo chúpla focal a úsáid nuair atá an seans ann. Níor smaoinigh mé cheanna ar chúrsa ar líne nó a leithead a dhéanamh, ach is smaoinemh é sin cinnte.

Caroline Simons



- 1) Caroline is a fluent Irish speaker and would be committed to using the language in her role as an MEP.
- 2) Caroline and Libertas believe that the Irish language is an essential part of Irish nationhood and Irish culture. Caroline believes it is crucial that Irish speakers are able to fully engage with the institutions of the EU; they should not be denied access to the full range of services and information available.

Colm Burke



Gan freagra / No answer

Dan Boyle



Ta súil agam go bhfuil ag éirí go maith leatsa agus leis an gConradh i mbliana. D'iarr Dan orm freagra a chur chugat maidir le do r-phost thíos, ós rud e go bhfuil se ar an bhfeachtas toghchána faoi láthair.

1. Cé nach bhfuil líofacht bainte amach ag Dan sa Ghaeilge go fóill, bheadh sé an-shásta úsáid a bhaint as acmhainní teanga ar bith a mholfadh an Conradh. Mar is eol duit, bhí an Teachta Glas, Trevor Sargent, mar cheannródaí maidir le húsáid na Gaeilge san Oireachtas sa 21ú aois agus bheadh fonn ar Dan an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i bParlaimint na hEorpa má thoghfar é chuig an mBruiséil.

2. Bhí an Comhaontas Glas mar chuid den bhFreasúra nuair a cuireadh an maolú speisialta don Ghaeilge san AE i bhfeidhm. Bhíomar ina choinne ansin agus táimid fós ina choinne. Ní dhéanfar athbhreithniú ar an gceist seo go dtí 2010 ach dúirt Dan liom cur in eolas duit go mbeidh an Comhaontas Glas ag cur cás na Gaeilge chun cinn mar chuid den Rialtas agus, má thoghfar chuig an mBruiséil é, mar chuid de Pharlaimint na hEorpa chomh maith. Creidimid nach foláir deireadh a chur leis an maolú chun scileanna na nGael a chur i bhfeidhm, postanna a chruthú agus nascanna nua a bhunú idir Éirinn agus an AE a luaithe agus is féidir.

Declan Ganley



Go raibh maith agat as ucht do ríomhphost.

1/ As you may well know, I have a basic knowledge of Irish because I was educated at primary level in England where my parents emigrated to before I was born.

I hope that my children will never have to face that future.

I have a very very great interest in maintaining and developing the Irish language as an integral part of our cultural heritage. I am very proud of our language. I will send you a statement I made on this issue two weeks.. as Béarla agus as Gaeilge under separate cover.

I also attach copies of my literature as Gaeilge which my campaign team are distributing and you can view my Preaseisiúintí online at www.libertas.eu/ireland

I hope to improve on my Irish and my children who are going to school locally in Tuam are assisting me in that regard.

2/ I think that the derogation that you refer is relating to the necessity that translators/administrators etc have two of the three working languages of the EU but maybe you could confirm?

I do wish to assure you that I consider the Irish language an integral part of our nationhood and I will work to preserve its status within the EU.

Deirdre de Búrca



Ta ar intinn agam Gaeilge a labhairt go rialta sa Pharlaimint Eorpach ma thoghfar me ar 5u Meitheamh, agus gan dabht beidh orm feabhas a chur ar mo chuid Gaeilge! Chaith me seachtain sa Ghaeltacht i mBaile Feirtear an bhliain so chaite agus déanfaidh mé an rud céanna an bliain seo.
O thaobh an tríú pointe de, bheinn toilteanach cabhrú leis.

Diane Dodds



Gan freagra / No answer

Eibhlin Byrne



Thanks for your questions. Just to follow up, I have conversational Irish and am more than willing to improve and use the Irish language as much as possible in my work within the European Parliament.

Eoin Ryan



Go raibh míle maith agat as ucht dul i dteagmháil liom ar an ábhar seo. Cé nach bhfuil Gaeilge líofa agam féin, tá an-ghrá agam don theanga, agus déanaim iarracht í a spreagadh sa bhaile agus san Eoraip. For example I have included some articles in Irish on my website and I will seek to add more in the future. I have also submitted 'Written explanations of vote' in Irish during the Plenary sessions.

I look forward to the day when Ireland no longer needs to avail of the derogation and Irish can join the other official languages in having full status. We have to work towards this together, politicians, educators, and interest groups, in Ireland as well as in Europe. To be able to cater for the demands of full status we must ensure that there are adequate numbers of trained and qualified translators, interpreters and lawyer linguists available for employment. Unfortunately that is not the case at the moment. We have to put in the ground work at home to reap the rewards in Europe and I am willing and eager to lend my support to this process in any way I can.

Should I be re-elected I will of course seek to improve my level of Irish and also to increase the amount of Irish that I use in articles on my website and in the workings of the parliament.

Gay Mitchell



Dúirt Gay go bhfuil an suim aige sa Ghaeilge féin, bhí a bpáistí i scoileanna lán gaelach. Tá píosa Gaeilge aige féin agus beidh an suim aige dá mbeadh cabhair ar fáil do MEPs a Ghaeilge a fheabhsú chun go mbeadh siad in ann é a úsáid sa Pharlaimint. Maidir leis an dara cheist, níl fhreagra aige féin faoi láthair maidir leis an maolú mar is cheist chasta é. Mar sin níl freagra cinnte agam duit ag an nóiméad seo.

Ian Parsley



1. I have already taken classes and purchased a self-taught online course. However, my priority is knowledge of the major EU languages - I am fluent in German, Spanish and French and would soon learn Dutch (as the other official language of Brussels). I would be keen to learn Irish, but cannot say it would be a priority in representing a population which, by and large, uses English.

2. No. Although I opted to support the Stádas campaign and would be sympathetic with ending the derogation, this question is not a matter for the jurisdiction I would represent, nor is it high priority in terms of my key themes for Europe (improved engagement, economy and environment). I have stated in my manifesto, however, that I would campaign for EU funding for Irish-language publishing (particularly of material for use in schools) and broadcasting, as a means to broaden accessibility (and appeal) to the language in Northern Ireland.

Jim Higgins

















Freagra - Ceist 1.

Ón 01.01.2007, tá 90% de óráidí Jim Higgins i bParlaimint na hEorpa déanta i nGaeilge. Chomh maith le sin, tá Jim Higgins go minic le cloisteáil ar Raidió na Gaeltachta. Tá Jim i gcónaí ag iarraidh feabhas a chur a chuid Gaeilge. Má thogtar mar chomhalta de Pharlaimint na hEorpa arís é, labhróidh Jim Gaeilge go rialta agus mar ghnáthchleachtas sa Pharlaimint, mar a bhfuil déanta aige go dtí seo.

Freagra - Ceist 2.

Tá Jim sásta go bhfuil, tar eis feachtas fada, stádas oifigiúil bainte amach ag an Ghaeilge. Ma thógtar é, beidh Jim lán-sásta a dhícheall a dhéanamh chun brú a chur ar Rialtas na hÉireann agus ar an Aontas Eorpach ionas go mbeadh stádas níos láidre againn don Ghaeilge.

Jim Nicholson	
Gan freagra / No answer	
Joe O'Reilly	
<p>1. Yes of course, Joe is also using Irish in the Seanad and will most definitely continue to do so.</p> <p>2. Fine Gael MEPs will put pressure on the Irish Government so that the derogations can be removed as soon as possible, so there is no doubt that Joe will especially will put pressure with his involvement with the Irish speaking community</p>	
Joe Higgins	
<p>Má bhead i bParlaimint na hEorpa déanfad gach iarracht Gaeilge a úsáid chomh minic agus is féidir de réir an ama a bheidh le fáil le caint.</p> <p>Thugas tacaíocht don bhfeachtas go mbeadh an Gaeilge mar theanga oifigiúil san Aontas Eorpach agus dá bhrí sin caithfear na cearta caoi a thabhairt don teanga.</p>	
John Paul Phelan	
Gan freagra / No answer	
Kathleen Funchion	
<p>As you can tell from the fact I am writing this in English, my level of Irish is not fluent, I would have secondary school level Irish and am planning on taking Irish classes in September, I have my son enrolled for the local gaelscoil and do want to improve both my level of Irish and my confidence in using the language. I know that Sinn Féin have an excellent track record in Europe in relation to this, as our 2 MEP's led the campaign to have Irish recognised as a working language of the EU. When I improve on the language I will most certainly use it at every given opportunity, both political and in my own personal live.</p> <p>I would be very supportive of the ending of the derogation of the Irish language, the issue around it creating job opportunities for Irish language speakers is an excellent point that people need to know about</p>	
Kathy Sinnot	Neamhspleách
Gan freagra / No answer	
Liam Aylward	
<p>Go raibh maith agat as ucht do ríomhphoist. Tá an-ghrá agam don Ghaeilge agus is breá liom ach go háirithe í a chloisteáil á labhairt sa Bhruiséil. Thar na blianta rinne mé cúpla óráid as Gaeilge i bParlaimint na hEorpa, ach chun an fhirinne a insint is dócha nach bhfuil a dhóthain misnigh agam as mo chuid Gaeilge. Tá a fhios agam go bhfuil an locht orm féin agus nach bainim úsáid minic go leor aisti, ach déanaim iarracht Gaeilge a labhairt le mo chomhghleacaithe agus le na baill foirne aga bhfuil Gaeilge acu.</p> <p>Is sprioc phearsanta chomh maith le sprioc pholaitiúil í cur le húsáid mo chuid Ghaeilge, ar bhonn laethúil chomh maith le sna seisiúin iomlánacha. Tá buntús réasúnta maith agam, ach mar a dúirt mé is ceist mhisnigh í. Agus gan dabht is gá dom í a chleachtadh. Níl aon plean agam faoi láthair cúrsa a dhéanamh, ach muna bhfuil ag eirí go maith liom, breathnóidh mé ar an scéal arís amach anseo.</p> <p>Maidir le do dara ceist: throid Fianna Fáil ar son na Gaeilge san Eoraip agus cinnte leanfaidh mise leis an troid sin. Tré fáil réidh leis an maolú ní amháin go mbeimid at tabhairt aitheantas do thábhacht na Gaeilge, ach cruthófar poist dá bhrí. Caithfidimid a bheith cúramach, áfach, go bhfuil na daoine cáilithe ann le na poist sin a líonadh. Chuige sin, is gá spreagadh a dhéanamh sa bhaile in Éirinn chomh maith le sa Bhruiséil. Muna bhfuilimid ullmhaithe agus réidh don stádas iomlán d'fhéadfadh fadhbanna ollmhóra a chruthú don theanga san Eoraip. Déanann tú tagairt ar "bhrú a chur" chun deireadh a chur leis a maolú. Nuair atá na háiseanna againn ní bheidh orainn brú a chur le deireadh a chur lei, dar liom féil. Caithfidimid díriú ar an háiseanna seo - aistritheoirí is rí. cáilithe agus réidh le hobair san Eoraip - a chur ar fáil.</p> <p>Is dóigh liom go bhfuil gá le níos mó comhoibre idir na heagraíochtaí ar fad lena chéile agus le na polaiteoirí. Tá súil agam go mbeidh mé in ann páirt a ghlacadh sa chomhoibriú sin agus an Ghaeilge a chur chun chinn san Eoraip agus in Éirinn.</p>	

Máiread McGuinness	
<p>(b) If you are not comfortable with your own standard of Irish, will you improve upon your level of Irish by taking classes or a self-taught online course so as to ensure that you will have sufficient Irish to represent Ireland in the EU using the country's first national language? YES</p> <p>2. Will you campaign to end the derogation in place with regard to the Irish language's status in the EU, by putting pressure on the EU and the Government of Ireland to achieve this? YES</p>	
Marian Harkin	Neamhspleách
Gan freagra / No answer	
Mary Lou McDonald	
<p>1. Má éiríonn liom bheith ath-thofa san Eoraip beidh mé ag iarraidh feabhas a chur ar mo chuid Gaeilge. Nuair a bhíonn mo chuid Gaeilge láidir go leor agus mé muiníneach leis, beidh mé lán sásta ceisteanna a chur 'ís freagairt as Gaeilge.</p> <p>Tá mé ag staidéir agus ag cleachtadh ó tháinig mo pháistí. Is féidir liom cuid ceisteanna a fhreagairt ach nuair a bhíonn tú as cleachtadh.... Tá sé ciotach!</p> <p>Tá mé ag súil go mór leis an lá, agus beidh sé roimh an chéad toghchán Eorpach eile, nuair a bheidh mé ag úsáid ár bpríomhtheanga náisiúnta i mo chuid oibre gach lá.</p> <p>2. Mary Lou down shall campaign to end the derogation in place with regard to the Irish language's status in the EU</p>	
Ned O'Keeffe	
<p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>Q1. While my Irish is very limited, I will improve by doing classes</p> <p>Q2 I will campaign to end the derogation.</p>	
Nessa Childers	
<p>1. – While my Irish language skills are not as good as I would like them to be, I have committed to improving them, and to using Irish in the Parliament when appropriate.</p> <p>2. – Ta stádas na Gaeilge san Eoraip bunaithe cheana féin. Is cinneadh e ata i lamhaibh Comhairle na bpríomh Airí. Má tá moladh o aon stat an stádas sin a athrú tá ceart crosta (Veto) ag Rialtas na hÉireann. Nil aon athrú ar an suíomh sin le Conradh Liosboin, fiú amháin. Ta dualgas ar an Dáil, sa gcead ait, aird a thabhairt ar an ceist seo. Ma thagann moladh os comhair Parlaimint na hEorpa úsáid an Gaeilge sa Pharlaimint a mhaolú beidh me i gcoinneamh.</p>	
Padraig Mac Lochlainn	
Ag tacú leis an dá cheist	
Paschal Mooney	
Go raibh maith agat. Níl a lán Gaeilge agamsa ach úsáid me ar an radio etc. Thank you Julian. I have a great love for the language and will of course use it whenever possible if elected. I also support No.2.	
Pat the Cope Gallagher	
<p>1. Tá mé ag súil go mór leis an seans chun an Ghaeilge a labhairt i bParlaimint na hEorpa agus deimhním go labhróidh mé go rialta í sa Pharlaimint.</p> <p>2. Is é an rud is tábhachtaí faoi láthair ná comhdhlúthú a dhéanamh ar an stádas atá curtha in áit ag an Aontas Eorpach cheana féin agus neartú a dhéanamh ar an gcumas atá ann chun é sin a chur i bhfeidhm seachas éilimh breise a dhéanamh. Chuirfinn fáilte roimh thacaíocht ó Chonradh na Gaeilge ina thaobh sin.</p>	
Proinsias de Rossa	
<p>FREAGRA 1:</p> <p>Bhain me úsáid as an Gaeilge roimh an stádas oifigiúil. Bhain me úsáid as tar éis an stádas oifigiúil. Nil se ar intinn agam mo cleachtas a athrú i leith an teanga Gaeilge má táim togha don Parlaimint athuair.</p> <p>2. – Ta stádas na Gaeilge san Eoraip bunaithe cheana féin. Is cinneadh e ata i lamhaibh Comhairle na bpríomh Airí. Má tá moladh o aon stat an stádas sin a athrú tá ceart crosta (Veto) ag Rialtas na hÉireann. Nil aon athrú ar an suíomh sin le Conradh Liosboin, fiú amháin. Ta dualgas ar an Dáil, sa gcead ait, aird a thabhairt ar an ceist seo. Ma thagann moladh os comhair Parlaimint na hEorpa úsáid an Gaeilge sa Pharlaimint a mhaolú beidh me i gcoinneamh.</p>	

Raymond O' Malley



I am keen on Irish but I am not confident enough to speak it on formal business at the EU parliament, I am willing to take lessons to bone up and bring my level of usage up to sufficient level to be able to use it as it should be used at the EU parliament.

I shall work for the best measure to promote the Irish language as the language of daily use among Irish speakers. I shall also endeavour to ensure that the derogation on the Irish language status at the EU is ended, and will put pressure on the EU and Irish government to achieve this.

Seán Kelly



Sean asked me to reply in brief to this, the answer to the 3 questions is **YES**. Sean will be issuing a detailed reply in Irish as soon as possible.

Steven Agnew



I do not speak any Irish not having grown up in an Irish speaking family or learned any Irish at school. I currently have no plans to learn Irish.

I am aware that Irish became an official working language of the EU in 2007 and there is a partial derogation in place for the EU institutions. I would be grateful if you could explain from your point of view what problems this causes for Irish speakers.

Susan O'Keeffe



Nil an Gaeilge go rómhaith agam ach déanfaidh mé mo dhícheall - gan cúnamh - chun freagraí a thabhairt don Chonradh. Nuair a bhí me ar scoil, bhí mé i Coláiste Gaeilge in Inis Thiar agus do thóg me páirt sna díospóireachtaí le Gael Linn, so ba mhaith liom rud a dhéanamh.

Beidh me sásta an Gaeilge a labhairt agus a fhoghlaim arís.

Tuigim cad tá ar siúl leis an Gaeilge san Aontas Eorpach agus táim sásta bhrú a chur ar Rialtas na hÉireann agus ar an Aontas Eorpach deireadh a chur leis an maolú.

Thomas Byrne



Gan freagra / No answer

Toireasa Ferris



Cinnte, labhraím Gaeilge sa comhairle chontae go rialta agus bheadh se i gceist agam an rud ceanna a dhéanamh i bparlaimint an Aontais Eorpaigh.

Bheinn sásta aon rud a dhéanamh chun e sin a bhaint amach (deireadh a chur leis an maolú)

Tomas Sharkey



Labhróidh mé Gaeilge cinnte mar Fheisire i bP na hE. Eiseoidh mé réitis i nGaeilge. Beidh www.focal.ie, WinGléacht, Ceart agus GaelSpell in úsáid ag m'oifig. Cuirfidh mé díospóireachtaí ar fáil do phobal na Gaeilge. Déanfaidh mé agóid chun leagan Gaeilge a fháil ar shuíomh idirlín na Parlaiminte.

Scaipfidh mé eolas ar an Teastas Eorpach sa Ghaeilge agus déanfaidh mé agóid é a bheith ar fáil go forleathan.

Cé go bhfuil mé compordach le húsáid na Gaeilge labhartha agus scríofa bíonn snaschúrsaí ag teastáil ó gach éinne againn. Freastalóidh mé orthu.

Maidir le stádas na Gaeilge, rinne mé cruinniú le Miguel Gomez cheana féin. Is stiúrthóir é sa tseirbhís ateangaireachta sa Bhruiséil. Tá na húdaráis ansin ag iarraidh an tseirbhís a leathnú ach foireann oilte a bheith ar fáil. Tá an dualgas ar Rialtas na hÉireann agus cuirfidh mé brú orthu.

Seo rud sa bhreis;

Creidim gur féidir linn Gaeilge a mhúineadh do mhuintir na dtíortha eile sa dóigh go mbeidh siad in ann éisteacht le Gaeilge agus í a athrú go dtí a dteangacha féin agus gan via Béarla mar atá sé faoi láthair. Ba mhaith liom go mbeidh Ionad saineolais i bhfoghlaim na Gaeilge do mhuintir na hEorpa chun seo a bhaint amach... i Ráth Chairn na Mí b'fhéidir.

Tá na gnéithe seo ardaithe agam cheana agus le feiceáil ar youtube;

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qehn0dWOK-Q>