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An Bille um an Ochtú Leasú Déag ar an mBurnreacht, 1998: An Tuarascáil agus an Chéim Dheireadh. Eighteenth Amendment of the Constitution Bill, 1998: Report and Final Stages.

Thursday, 26 March 1998

An Ceann Comhairle: Amendment No. 2 is cognate to amendment No. 1 so they may be discussed together.

Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture and Food (Mr. E. O'Keefe): Tairgím leasú Uimh. a 1:

Ar leathanach 5, líne 14, “an téacs” a scriosadh agus “na téacsanna” a chur ina ionad.

I move amendment No. 1:

In page 4, line 14, to delete “text” and substitute “texts”.

This is a drafting amendment replacing the word “text” with “texts” in both English and Irish versions.

Leasú aontaithe.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. E. O'Keefe: Tairgím leasú Uimh. a 2:

Ar leathanach 5, líne 17, “an téacs” a scriosadh agus “na téacsanna” a chur ina ionad.

I move amendment No. 2:

In page 4, line 17, to delete “text” and substitute “texts”.

Proinsias De Rossa: Could we have an explanation of the amendment?

An Ceann Comhairle: We cannot discuss the amendment as it was taken with amendment No. 1.

Mr. E. O'Keefe: This is also a drafting amendment to replace “text” with “texts” in both the English and Irish texts.

Leasú aontaithe.

Amendment agreed to.

Glacfar an mBille, mar a leasaíodh é, chun an breithniú deiridh a dhéanamh air.

Bill, as amended, received for final consideration.

Cuireadh an cheist: “Go rithfidh an Bille anois.”

Question proposed: “That the Bill do now pass.”

Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture and Food (Mr. E. O'Keefe): I thank the Members who spoke on all Stages of the debate on this Bill. The debate has demonstrated the wide measure of support that exists in Dáil Éireann for continuing European integration and for Ireland to play a full part in it. It is in all our interests that Ireland should be at the forefront of the process of European integration. The benefits which have flowed to Ireland through such participation have not just been financial. They have touched on every aspect of life in Ireland and have contributed centrally to the success and selfconfidence we enjoy today. As indicated at the outset, ratification enjoys almost unanimous support in this House, which reflects the overwhelming support in Ireland for European integration and Ireland's full participation in that process. The Amsterdam Treaty is

the next necessary step in the creation of a larger, more responsive and ultimately more successful European Union.

Cuireadh agus aontaíodh an cheist.

Question put and agreed to.

Ráiteas faoi Eolas do Vótálaithe: Tairiscint. Statement for Information of Voters: Motion.

Thursday, 26 March 1998

Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture and Food (Mr. E. O'Keefe): Tairgím:

Go ndéanfar an ráiteas atá leagtha amach sa Sceideal a ghabhann leis an Rún seo a fhorordú mar eolas do vótálaithe de bhun alt 23 d'Acht an Reifrinn, 1994 (Uimh. 12 de 1994), i ndáil leis an togra chun Airteagal 29 den Bhunreacht a leasú atá ar áireamh sa Bhille um an Ochtú Leasú Déag ar an mBunreacht, 1998, agus is ábhar do reifreann bunreacht.

An Sceideal

1. Is é atá beartaithe leis an mBille um an Ochtú Leasú Déag ar an mBunreacht, 1998, na fo-ailt seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh fho-alt 4 d'alt 4 d'Airteagal 29 den Bhunreacht:

‘5. Tig leis an Stát Conradh Amstardam ag leasú an Chonartha ar an Aontas Eorpach, na gConarthaí ag bunú na gComhphobal Eorpach agus Ionstraimí gaolmhara áirithe, a síníodh in Amstardam an 2ú lá de Dheireadh Fómhair, 1997, a dhaingniú.

6. Tig leis an Stát na roghnuithe nó na roghanna a fheidhmiú a shocraítear le hAirteagail 1.11, 2.5 agus 2.15 den Chonradh dá dtagraítear i bhfo-alt 5 den alt seo nó fúthu agus leis an dara Prótacal agus leis an gceathrú Prótacal atá leagtha amach sa Chonradh sin nó fúthu ach beidh aon fheidhmiú den sórt sin faoi réir ceadú a fháil roimh ré ó dhá Theach an Oireachtais.’

2. MÁ THOILÍONN TÚ leis an togra, cuir X os coinne an fhocail TÁ ar an bpáipéar ballóide.

3. MURA dTOILÍONN TÚ leis an togra, cuir X os coinne an fhocail NÍL ar an bpáipéar ballóide.

4. Is féidir cóip den Bhille a iniúchadh nó a fháil saor in aisce in aon Phost-Oifig.

I move:

THAT the statement set out in the Schedule to this Resolution be prescribed for the information of voters pursuant to section 23 of the Referendum Act, 1994 (No. 12 of 1994), in relation to the proposal to amend Article 29 [232] of the Constitution which is contained in the Eighteenth Amendment of the Constitution Bill, 1998, and is the subject of a constitutional referendum.

Schedule

1. The Eighteenth Amendment of the Constitution Bill, 1998, proposes to insert the following subsections after subsection of section 4 of Article 29 of the Constitution:

‘5. The State may ratify the Treaty of Amsterdam amending the Treaty on European Union, the Treaties establishing the European Communities and certain related Acts signed at Amsterdam on the 2nd day of October, 1997.

6. The State may exercise the options or discretions provided by or under Articles 1.11, 2.5 and 2.15 of the Treaty referred to in subsection 5 of this section and the second and fourth Protocols set out in the said Treaty but any such exercise shall be subject to the prior approval of both Houses of the Oireachtas.’

2. IF YOU APPROVE of the proposal, mark X opposite the word YES on the ballot paper.

3. IF YOU DO NOT APPROVE of the proposal, mark X opposite the word NO on the ballot paper.

4. A copy of the Bill can be inspected or obtained free of charge at any Post Office.

Cuireadh agus aontaíodh an cheist.

Question put and agreed to.

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