



Senator Mark Daly's Monthly Newsletter

Senator Mark Daly Meets with Dingle Congressman About Undocumented Irish



Senator Mark Daly with Pennsylvania Congressman Mike Doyle and Massachusetts Congressman Richie Neal

Senator Mark Daly met with Congressman Richie Neal, whose family hails from Dingle, and leaders of the "Friends of Ireland" US Congressional Delegation, Tuesday 30 June 2009, as part of bi-lateral talks between the US and Irish Parliamentary Delegations.

Speaking on behalf of the Delegation, the Chairman, Congressman Richie Neal, pledged support for the undocumented Irish in the United States and called for enhanced US-Ireland economic relations.

Senator Daly welcomes the group's commitment, stating that now, more than ever, Ireland and the US must strengthen long-held ties - both economic and historical - so that we can help each other to move forward through these difficult times.

The US delegation consisted of eight Congressmen and stayed in Ireland from 27 June – 4 July, during which time it met with the Ceann Comhairle, the President, the Taoiseach, the Tánaiste and Party Leaders.



Irish Motion on Investigation of Alleged Human Rights Abuses by Israel in Gaza Adopted by Euro-Mediterranean Assembly in Cairo

Senator Mark Daly travelled to Cairo, Egypt in June to propose the adoption of an Oireachtas - EU Affairs Committee Motion regarding investigation of alleged human rights abuses by Israel in Gaza. The Irish motion on investigation of alleged human rights abuses by Israel in Gaza was adopted by the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly in Cairo.

Senator Daly represented the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs at a Euro-Mediterranean Assembly Meeting of the Committee on Economic, Financial Affairs, Social Affairs and Education of the Assembly which took place in the Egyptian Parliament over the course of the weekend. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the state of play on Mediterranean Post-Crisis Management.

Senator Daly called on the Committee to adopt the Irish Parliament's European Affairs Committee motion to "invite the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights or the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights on Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, and the European Union Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy to assist the Euro-Mediterranean Committee in determining whether or not as a matter of fact there has been a breach of Article Two of the EU / Israel EURO-MEDITERRANEAN Association Agreement of 1995". This article guarantees respect for human rights and democratic principles in all relations between parties to the Association.

After his address to the Assembly, Senator Daly received applause from the other parliamentarians.

In his address, Senator Daly stated that the EU appeared unwilling to investigate whether there were human rights abuses. "If human rights abuses were identified, the European Union would have to invoke Article 2 and withdraw Israel's preferential trade with the EU."

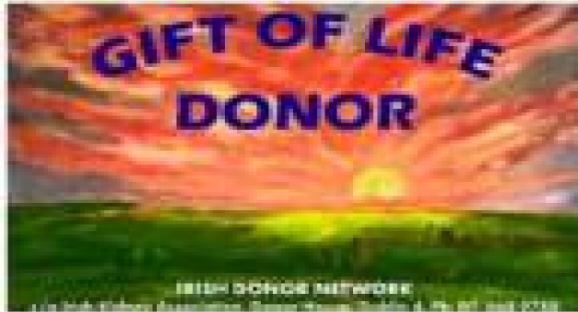
"This is an international trade agreement, and if the EU is not willing to up hold the articles in the treaty, it sends the signal to other countries that they could ignore elements within EU agreements and the Union would take no action".

Chairman of the Committee, Mohammed M. Abou El Enein, a member of the Egyptian Parliament, put the motion to the floor. The motion was passed by a majority of delegates. However, some EU states abstained from voting on the Irish motion.

The Irish motion made headline news in the Middle East's biggest selling daily newspaper, Akhbar el Youm.



Organ Donation



Organ donor card, carry a signed card in your wallet to give the gift of life.

Available in chemists and doctors offices.

On 13 March 2009, Senator Mark Daly submitted a proposal on how to raise awareness about organ donation.

An audit on organ donation, done in preparation for the Human Tissue Bill, showed that fifty five percent of families did

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- wanted to give the gift of organ donation. Senator Daly states that “The first key issue is to raise public awareness in order to increase donation rates. The next crucial step is to build a database of donors and improve procedures in hospitals so as to eliminate any doubt over potential donors’ wishes.”

In order to raise public awareness, Senator Daly proposes the introduction of a tick box option on documents such as driving license and motor tax renewal forms, government issued identification cards and bank cards. The Senator explains that due to the regular use of such documents, people would frequently see and be reminded of their ability to save and change lives by simply ticking a box.

An essential element of this proposal is the systematic recording of such documents and cards which would serve as an invaluable database which hospitals and families could draw on when in doubt as to potential donors’ wishes.

Furthermore, the Senator proposes the creation of an Organ Donation Awareness Trust Fund in which a special fund would be established for increasing public knowledge regarding organ donation.

Senator Daly also calls for a system of mandatory recording reporting, urging that “In order to institute a cohesive and efficient organ donation system, there must be a system of communication established for both the public and for doctors in hospitals.” Further to this, the Senator proposes to set up a system whereby all hospitals must refer all deaths and imminent deaths to their local Organ Procurement Organisation for determination of suitability for organ donation and would be followed by an intensive education program for doctors and hospitals.



Labelling Mobile Phone Health Risks

Senator Mark Daly met with Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley on June 17 regarding mobile phone safety and location of mobile phone masts.

Senator Daly proposed a scheme aimed at labelling mobile phones to warn about health risks involved with use. Specifically, the label would direct the consumer to a website that contains the most up-to-date information about potential health risks. This is vital as research has indicated that children, in particular, are more vulnerable to electromagnetic frequency emitted from mobile phones during an extended period of time.

In light of the 2009 Planning and Development Bill, Senator Daly urged the Minister to include recommendations from the Joint Committee on Communications that, “no ‘electromagnetic emissions’ or ‘radio frequency emissions’ emitting equipment be permitted to be sited near health centres, schools, or other sensitive sites such as playgrounds or pitches, etc.” Senator Daly insists that emission rates from mobile phone masts should be the lowest in Europe.

Senator Daly looks forward to working with Minister Gormley in the future to ensure these proposals become legislation.

Senator Mark Daly Ensures Five Year Planning Timeframe for the Commencement of Building Will be Extended

On Wednesday 17 June, Senator Mark Daly obtained a commitment from Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government John Gormley, T.D. to extend the current five year timeframe in which people who have been granted planning permission must commence building.

Following representations from the Valentia Cumann, Senator Daly has been pushing for a number of months for the inclusion of a section in the new Planning and Development Bill extending the five year time-limit of planning permission.

Senator Daly states that “In the current economic climate it is vital that people who have struggled hard to get planning permission and now find that they can not get a loan are not penalised because the permission has lapsed”.

Section 23 of the new Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2009 amends section 42 of the 2000 Act so that holders of planning permission may apply for an extension of the five year period where necessitated by “considerations of a commercial, economic or technical nature beyond the control of the applicant which substantially mitigated against either the commencement of development or the carrying out of substantial works pursuant to the planning permission”.



Senator Mark Daly Welcomes Funding for Roof Repairs at St. Brendan's College, Killarney

Senator Mark Daly welcomes the approval for funding received on Tuesday 23 June 2009, from the Minister for Education and Science, Batt O'Keeffe, T.D. for roof repairs at St. Brendan's College, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

The Moynihan Building at St. Brendan's College was constructed in the 1960s. Despite routine maintenance and repairs over almost half a decade, the flat roof now suffers extensive leaking and subsequent damage. According to the architects' report, the

leakages pose "a hazard under Health and Safety regulations". The roof is in need of urgent overhaul.

Senator Daly has been working in conjunction with St. Brendan's College in the push for funding. Roof repairs is among a number of various ongoing petitions for development and improvement of St. Brendan's College included in which is a new sports hall. The Senator will continue pressing for funding for these projects.

Defeated Politicians Are Outclassed & Outspoken on the Pitch



Senator Mark Daly, Deputy Andrews and Packie Bonner

FORGET THE All-Ireland, Wimbledon and the Lions. The sporting occasion of the week happened on Tuesday night in UCD, when an Oireachtas squad of finely tuned athletes took on a selection from the FAI in a charity soccer challenge.

In a sterling display of all-party ineptitude, the politicians, augmented by

some brave members of the Leinster House staff, bravely fought their way to a 4-0 defeat

at the hands of a few sports journalists and some FAI officials well past their peak. The politicians immediately declared a moral victory. This is because the FAI had Packie Bonner in goal, and they couldn't get anything past him. Furthermore, they complained there had not been a level playing field as the sports journalists were eager young fellas, mad to win.

"It wasn't fair. Why didn't they get political journalists like Stephen Collins and David Davin-Power to play? They would have been useless too, and if Vincent Browne was there I could have kicked him and got away with it," sulked one disgusted squad member.

Prizes were awarded afterwards over drinks in Doheny Nesbitts pub. The politicians, each convinced that their own performance had been exemplary, waited eagerly to hear who would be named man of the match.



Deputy Margaret Conlon and Senators Ger Feeney and Fiona O'Malley talked down their chances. Deputies Niall Blaney, Chris and Barry Andrews, Michael D'Arcy, Frankie Feighan, Joe McHugh, Damien English and Senators Mark Daly and Brian O'Domhnaill all nursed ambitions.

Packie announced the winners. Man of the match? Sue "Beyoncé" Hanway, pint puller extraordinaire and the Dáil bar's better looking answer to Ronaldo. She received a medal and a trophy as consolation for having to play alongside such a crowd of donkeys.

"I don't know how we didn't manage to score a goal. There were 19 of us on the field at one stage," said Sue.

Meanwhile, Senator Ger Feeney was named winner of the Sexy Legs award, much to the annoyance of Frankie Feighan, who threatened to sing in retaliation.

The teetotal Senator Feeney, flushed with success, was last seen leaving the premises triumphantly waving Packie Bonner's shorts.