

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

11.03.16 – 17.03.16

Welcome to **KASPress Ireland**, our weekly summary of relevant and interesting news from the Irish press.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

London Office

Email: kas-uk@kas.de

Top Story

Fine Gael is making progress in efforts to convince Independents and small parties to back a minority government on the basis of an agreed programme and cabinet seats. Fianna Fáil's attempt to assemble more supporters for Micheál Martin than there are for acting Taoiseach Enda Kenny, in the next vote for taoiseach on April 6th, appear to be faltering following a number of recent meetings.

Politics

- Minister for Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan accused Fianna Fáil of acting as if it had succeeded in the general election despite Fine Gael still being the biggest presence in the Dáil.
- Senior Fianna Fáil members believe a May election could be looming as talks to form a government continue.
- Barring a major upset, a Fine Gael-Fianna Fáil coalition is inevitable. We are now witnessing time-wasting in Leinster House, according to reports in the Irish Times.
- Acting Taoiseach Enda Kenny has put pressure on Fianna Fáil to engage in talks on forming a coalition government by demanding the party face up to its "responsibilities" following the election.
- Detailed research carried out for the Sunday Business Post/Red C poll suggests that there is very little buyer's remorse among most voters who went to the polls last

month. Overall, 70 per cent of voters are happy with the choice they made and would “definitely vote that way again if there was an election tomorrow”.

- Acting Taoiseach Enda Kenny visited the White House on Tuesday as part of a day-long programme of events in the United States to mark St Patrick’s Day.
- Both Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil have, for the first time, conceded that talks between the parties over government options are likely as fresh efforts get under way to win the support of TDs.
- A senior Fianna Fáil TD is confident his party can gain the support of 20 Independents and members of smaller groups and lead a minority government.
- Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil are preparing to offer a series of sweeteners to Independent TDs in a desperate bid to win their support ahead of next month’s crucial vote for Taoiseach.
- There is “no way” Fine Gael in opposition would support a Fianna Fáil minority government on a case-by-case basis, one of the party’s senior figures has said.
- Another general election would result in no major gains for Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil, according to the latest Sunday Business Post/Red C opinion poll.
- The number of ministerial trips abroad for the traditional St Patrick’s Day celebrations have been cut by two thirds this year in the wake of the collapse of the Fine Gael-Labour coalition.
- Despite heavy overtures from outgoing Taoiseach Enda Kenny yesterday, Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin categorically ruled out any deal, saying his party “has no mandate to return Fine Gael to power”.

Economy

- A deal has been reached between Luas drivers and Transdev that means the planned strike for St Patrick’s Day has been called off.
- The ESRI has warned there will not be enough houses built to meet demand until the year 2018 at the earliest. Its latest report predicts economic growth of around 5% this year, but has said there needs to be high level intervention in the housing shortage. The new mortgage lending rules mean first time buyers need a 10 % deposit.
- Rents in Dublin are now marginally higher than they were at their 2007 peak but rents outside the capital remain 14.5 per cent below the highs seen eight years ago, new figures show.

- The Court of Appeal has quashed the convictions of two former Anglo Irish Bank officials jailed for furnishing false information to the Revenue Commissioners and conspiring to delete bank accounts.
- David Drumm arrived back in Ireland from Boston on Sunday to face charges related to Anglo Irish Bank, according to reports.
- Ireland's rapidly expanding economy has regained growth rates not seen since the Celtic Tiger era, with activity advancing faster than at any time since 2000.
- Luas drivers have announced four more days of strike action, as the public faces further transport misery next month.

Society

- Ireland (and the world) celebrates St Patrick's Day festival 2016.
- Three colleges which have performed poorly in a new assessment process for the higher education sector face financial penalties running into hundreds of thousands of euro.
- A new study has found alcohol consumption in Ireland is on the decline.
- Childcare workers in State-funded schemes can earn as little as €5,700 a year, an unpublished report from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions has found.
- Irish Water has denied there has been a mass cancellation of payments in the wake of the general election.
- All of society loses when there is gender inequality, President Michael D Higgins said as he hosted a celebration of the role of men in advancing women's rights.
- Rising traffic levels on the main road networks in the greater Dublin area and a swell in demand for residential property surrounding the capital are pointing to the resurgence of a boom-time growth in the commuter belt.

Headlines

- [17.03.2016] [Fine Gael gains ground in move to woo smaller parties](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.03.2016] [Fianna Fáil 'game playing' on forming next government](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.03.2016] [Election in May possible, says senior Fianna Fáil members](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [17.03.2016] [Ireland \(and the world\) celebrates St Patrick's Day festival 2016](#) [Irish Independent]
- [17.03.2016] [Luas drivers' St Patrick's Day strike called off](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [16.03.2016] [Grand FG-FF alliance is coming – but it has to be done slowly](#) [Irish Times]
- [16.03.2016] [Enda Kenny ramps up pressure on FF during US visit](#) [Irish Times]
- [16.03.2016] [Red C Special: Very little buyer's remorse among voters](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [16.03.2016] [Housing shortage will not be met until 2018 says ESR!](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [15.03.2016] [Enda Kenny visits White House on shortened St Patrick's Day visit](#) [Irish Times]
- [15.03.2016] [Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil admit they will discuss government options](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [15.03.2016] [Dublin rents higher than 2007 peak](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [15.03.2016] [Third-level colleges face penalties over 'poor performance'](#) [Irish Times]
- [15.03.2016] [Alcohol consumption declines 25pc in Ireland over the last 15 years](#) [Irish Independent]
- [15.03.2016] [Court quashes convictions of former Anglo Irish officials](#) [Irish Times]
- [14.03.2016] [Fianna Fáil: We can form minority government](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [14.03.2016] [The auction begins – TDs to be offered deals in return for support](#) [Irish Independent]
- [14.03.2016] [Leo Varadkar: 'No way' FG will back FF minority government](#) [Irish Times]
- [14.03.2016] [Childcare workers in State schemes on as little as €5,700](#) [Irish Times]
- [13.03.2016] [David Drumm arrives in Ireland to face charges](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [12.03.2016] [President Higgins: 'All of society is flawed if gender violence is allowed to occur'](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [12.03.2016] [Ministerial St Patrick's Day trips abroad 'significantly reduced'](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [12.03.2016] [Irish Water denies customers are cancelling payments](#) [Irish Times]
- [11.03.2016] [Dáil Day One: Second election on the way as Fianna Fáil/Fine Gael coalition lies in ruins](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [11.03.2016] [Fast-expanding economy regains growth rates](#) [Irish Times]
- [11.03.2016] [Commuter chaos as four more Luas strikes announced](#) [Irish Independent]
- [11.03.2016] [Dublin's homebuyer's again look to commuter belt](#) [Irish Times]

Newspaper (average daily net circulation/political stance - February 2015)

Irish Independent (circulation: 112,383) politically populist; Conservative

Irish Times (circulation: 76,194) politically Liberal/Progressive; centre-right on economic issues

Irish Examiner (circulation: 33, 198) politically Centrist

Sunday Business Post (circulation: 32, 498) politically Liberal