

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

16.09.16 – 22.09.16

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

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

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Top Story

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said the best outcome to the Brexit negotiations would be one “as close as possible to the current status quo”. “If the United Kingdom has access to the single market it must agree to free movement of people which is one of the four fundamental principles of the EU,” he said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Politics

Irish Water will get a €660m bailout this year but a decision to suspend water charges could have “big consequences” for funding other services next year, warns Housing Minister Simon Coveney. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

It is likely British prime minister Theresa May will formally begin the process of exiting the European Union in January or February, Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fianna Fáil is not ruling out supporting the reintroduction of domestic water charges, senior party sources have confirmed. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Gerry Adams has ‘totally and specifically refuted’ allegations that he was consulted over the murder of Denis Donaldson. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Finance Minister Michael Noonan has said the decision to reduce the universal social charge (USC) is a political one, despite mounting calls for the tax to be retained. Mr Noonan was speaking at the Dáil’s new Budget Oversight Committee and restated his intention to phase out the USC by 2021. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Differences between Irish and Italian authorities over the handling of asylum seekers' applications for relocation have resulted in no migrants moving from Italy to Ireland under an EU scheme agreed last year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Water charges are "unlikely" to be reintroduced, the leader of Fianna Fáil has declared, ahead of a special commission deciding on the future of water services and how they should be funded. Micheál Martin also confirmed that his party will not back a Sinn Féin motion in the Dáil next week to abolish water charges, even though Fianna Fáil ultimately wants to scrap bills for households. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fianna Fail has demanded that Minister for Finance Michael Noonan awards extra payments in next month's Budget to the country's old-age pensioners to reverse years of "savage cuts". To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fine Gael rebels are seeking support for a secret ballot at the final parliamentary party meeting before Christmas in a bid to oust Enda Kenny as leader, according to the Irish Independent. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fianna Fáil has maintained a five point lead over Fine Gael and remains the party with the largest support, according to the results of a Behaviour and Attitudes opinion poll. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Social Protection Minister Leo Varadkar has warned so-called Fine Gael rebels of engaging in any further "displays of disunity" over Enda Kenny's leadership. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

President Michael D Higgins has strongly criticised the European Union, warning that imposition of the EU's fiscal rules could remove decision-making powers from elected governments. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness has confirmed that he has held discussions with Gerry Adams about the latter's plans to step aside as party leader. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has insisted there is no "existential crisis" at the heart of the EU, despite admitting the political bloc "facing serious challenges" due to ongoing rifts on a series of key issues. To read more on the Taoiseach's comments, [click here](#). [

A cross-party House of Commons committee has begun an inquiry into the future of the Irish border after Brexit, assessing the impact of different potential relationships between the United Kingdom and the EU. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Economy

SoftwareOne has announced plans to invest €16 million in expanding its Irish operations which will lead to the creation of 100 new jobs over the next three years. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The ESRI has revised down its growth forecasts for this year and next due to weaker global demand and the expected impact of Brexit although it expects the economy to continue to grow, outperforming many other European economies, and unemployment to continue to fall. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Chief Executive of Dublin Bus has warned staff that strike action will cost the company €21m and leave it in a “catastrophic” financial position. To read more on the Dublin Bus strikes, [click here](#).

US-based company Fazzi Healthcare Services will create 300 jobs in Limerick over the next five years with the establishment of a new Irish-based medical coding and healthcare services firm. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Apple should not be punished for its tax arrangements in Ireland, businessman Denis O’Brien has said, after European authorities went after the company in a record crackdown. To read more on Mr O’Brien’s comments, [click here](#).

Business lobby group Ibec has said the economy should be able to weather the impact of Brexit this year but the regions remain vulnerable as it cut its economic growth forecast for 2016 to 3.9 per cent from 4.7 per cent previously. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A third of Irish adults have said they are considering buying a residential property over the next two years as pent-up demand re-emerges, a new study reveals. To read more on this survey, [click here](#).

Optimism about tourism is its highest in a decade and the number of overseas visitors to Ireland has grown this year. A Fáilte Ireland survey of 600 tourism businesses found that 72% were upbeat about tourism performance in 2016 and about prospects for the rest of the year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Irish oil and gas exploration company San Leon Energy has paid out €580,000 to the law firm that handled a €15 million legal dispute on its behalf, a source close to the company confirmed. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Nama this released email correspondence which it says “disproves a false claim made by Mick Wallace TD” that Nama did not permit Fortress to increase its bid for the controversial Project Eagle portfolio. To read more on the on-going dispute, [click here](#).

Society

Children and teenagers in Ireland feel their parents do not listen to them and pressurise them to live up to high expectations, a Government consultation with young people has found. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A blunder in Trinity College left Ireland's oldest university without any ranking in the world's most prestigious universities' league table. Trinity underestimated the level of research funding it receives and submitted incorrect information to the Times Higher Education (THE) rankings experts. That is now being blamed for the college's apparent dramatic fall in the THE ratings, for both this year and last year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

There are now a record number of 228 rough sleepers in Dublin city centre, according to the Simon Community. The findings have been described as “shocking” by Minister for Housing, Simon Coveney. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government is facing a backlash among backbenchers against a subsidised childcare scheme for under-threes that will not benefit squeezed middle-income earners for years. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland has accepted just 38 refugees, including one unaccompanied child, from Greece in the past year despite a commitment to accept 2,622 under the EU relocation scheme, Ombudsman for Children Dr Niall Muldoon has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A ground-breaking plan by GPs to set up a nationwide network of 'in-house' pharmacies has been shelved, according to the Sunday Independent. It would have resulted in an unprecedented shake-up in the multi-million euro drugs and medicines dispensing industry. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A new pay deal has been agreed for newly qualified teachers. It will see increases of €2,000 a year for teachers at the start of their careers. The increases will be phased in on January 1 2017 and January 1 2018. The new pay scale will be linked to some reform measures. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government has committed to significantly reducing early school leaving, boosting the number of apprenticeships, and piloting state-funded afterschool care services. Education Minister Richard Bruton made the commitments at the launch of an action plan for education. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [22.09.2016] [Irish Water to get €660m bailout](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [22.09.2016] [Swiss software firm to invest €16 million in Irish operations, creating 100 jobs](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [22.09.2016] [Irish youth suffer due to high expectations, report finds](#) [Irish Times]
- [22.09.2016] [Trinity left off ranking table due to error](#) [Irish Independent]
- [21.09.2016] [Kenny says stability would be the best outcome from Brexit](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.09.2016] [UK to begin Brexit process early next year, says Enda Kenny](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.09.2016] [Fianna Fáil not ruling out backing water charges in future](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.09.2016] [‘I totally and specifically refute the allegations’ – Adams breaks silence on claim he sanctioned murder](#) [Irish Independent]
- [21.09.2016] [Michael Noonan defends plan to cut USC](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [21.09.2016] [ESRI cuts growth forecasts due to weaker global demand and Brexit](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [21.09.2016] [‘Bus strike will cost €21m and leave us in catastrophic financial position,’ warns chief executive](#) [Irish Independent]
- [21.09.2016] [Record number sleeping rough in Dublin, says Simon Community](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [20.09.2016] [No migration from Italy to Ireland under EU scheme](#) [Irish Times]
- [20.09.2016] [Water charges ‘unlikely’ to return, declares Micheal Martin](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [20.09.2016] [US healthcare company to create 300 jobs in Limerick](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [20.09.2016] [Apple played by the rules, says O’Brien](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [20.09.2016] [Squeezed middle left out of new plan for childcare](#) [Irish Independent]
- [19.09.2016] [Fianna Fáil calls for reversal of ‘savage cuts’ to pensioners](#) [Irish Times]
- [19.09.2016] [‘Secret ballot’ to unseat Kenny – FG TDs](#) [Irish Independent]
- [19.09.2016] [Ibec cuts economic growth forecasts as it warns regions remain vulnerable](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [19.09.2016] [A third want to buy property over the next two years](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [19.09.2016] [Tourism outlook best in decade as visitor numbers rise](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [19.09.2016] [Ireland accepts just 38 refugees from Greece despite commitment](#) [Irish Times]
- [18.09.2016] [Fianna Fáil maintains lead over Fine Gael in B&A opinion poll](#) [Irish Times]
- [18.09.2016] [Varadkar: No more displays of ‘public disunity’ over Kenny’s leadership](#) [Irish Independent]
- [18.09.2016] [San Leon Energy pays out €580,000 in legal dispute](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [18.09.2016] [GPs shelve bold plan to dispense pills](#) [Irish Independent]
- [17.09.2016] [Michael D Higgins ‘very worried about the future of Europe’](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.09.2016] [McGuinness and Adams discuss leadership](#) [Irish Independent]
- [17.09.2016] [No existential crisis in the EU, insists Enda Kenny](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [16.09.2016] [Nama releases email it claims ‘disproves’ Mick Wallace claim](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [16.09.2016] [House of Commons begins inquiry into future of Border](#) [Irish Times]
- [16.09.2016] [€2k pay deal for newly qualified teachers](#) [Irish Independent]
- [16.09.2016] [Education action plan aims to cut early school leaving](#) [Irish Examiner]

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