



PUTTING IRELAND FIRST

ÉIRE CHUN CINN

SINN FÉIN EU MANIFESTO 2014

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Fighting for Workers



Gerry Adams TD
Sinn Féin President

LETTER FROM GERRY ADAMS TD

The European Union is in crisis – an economic crisis, a social crisis and a political crisis. Poor design, bad policies and incompetent leadership are to blame.

The consequence of this crisis is being felt by families in every member state. Unemployment, emigration, debt and poverty have become a daily reality for millions of people.

The economic crisis has left millions without work. Millions more are seeing their wages and working conditions undermined. Across the EU 26.5 million people are officially out of work. Youth unemployment stands at 24%.

The recession has led to a social crisis. According to Eurostat 120 million people representing 24% of the population of the EU are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Many of these are in work but earning wages that do not meet their family's basic needs.

The response of the EU institutions, actively supported by governments in the member states, has been to socialise the cost of the crisis. The needs of banks have been put before the needs of people.

Austerity – imposing the costs of the economic crisis on those least able to pay- has become the dogma of politicians in Dublin, London and Brussels. It is the policy con-

sensus that binds Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and Labour to the European Commission, the European Council and the European Central Bank. The only disagreement which the Unionist parties in the north and the Conservative-led government in London have is about who should impose the austerity measures - Brussels or London.

The result has been an assault on the living standards of low and middle income families across Ireland; the demonisation of those unable to find work and dependent on social welfare; and the asset stripping of public services and utilities on which many of us rely.

To make matters worse political elites across Europe want to centralise more power into the EU institutions – they claim that this is the only way to resolve the crisis.

It is time to call a halt to the failed policies of the Brussels consensus. The European Parliament election is your opportunity to send a signal to the political elites that you have had enough.

On May 22nd and 23rd don't vote for parties that have failed in the past. Vote for a party that is offering a clear, credible and radical alternative – at home and in the EU.

Sinn Féin is standing in every constituency in the country. It is time to put all of Ireland first, to vote for a strong all Ireland team - vote Sinn Féin.

SINN FÉIN'S 10 COMMITMENTS

If elected Sinn Féin MEPs will prioritise the following key policy commitments:

1

To secure greater investment from the European Investment Bank to create jobs in Ireland north and south.

2

To secure a deal on the legacy debt in AIB and BoI and a new deal on the Anglo Irish Bank/IBRC promissory notes.

3

To defend workers' pay and conditions and to promote a basic threshold of decency for all workers.

4

To ensure a fairer distribution of CAP and adequate supports for our farming and fishing communities.

5

To secure urgent action on climate change at an EU and domestic level.

6

To return powers to member states and increase the influence of member state parliaments in the EU legislative process.

7

To reduce the power of the Commission, ending its power of initiative and making it more transparent and accountable to the European and member state parliaments.

8

To increase power of smaller states at the Council of Ministers through a reform of the Qualified Majority Voting procedure.

9

To reassert Ireland's positive neutrality and to withdraw from the emerging EU common defence.

10

To promote Irish unity and EU support for a border poll.



Lynn Boylan
Dublin
Constituency



Liadh Ní Riada
South
Constituency

Martina Anderson
North
Constituency

Matt Carthy
Midlands-North-West
Constituency



On the floor of the parliament they argued for:

- An investment led alternative to EU austerity and to cuts in the EU budget.
- Greater funding for small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) and for research and development.
- A Peace IV programme and the roll-out of Interreg V.
- A better deal for Irish farmers during the Common Agricultural Policy reform.
- A greater focus on climate change and the need for binding emissions targets.
- International solidarity with peoples in Palestine, Kurdistan and the Basque Country.
- Increased support for the Irish language in Brussels and at home.
- Engagement with civil society including ageing, disability, LGBT, women's organisations.
- Promoting LGBT rights across the EU and the creation of a roadmap against homophobia.
- Support for Irish Unity.
- Promoting the peace process and the need for national reconciliation.
- Highlighting the legacy of state collusion

OUR RECORD IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In 2009 Bairbre de Brún was elected to the European Parliament by the people of the Six Counties. She was replaced by former Stormont Junior Minister Martina Anderson MLA in 2012.

During the last five years Bairbre and Martina have sought not just to represent the people who voted for them, but the interests of Ireland as a whole.

During her time as an MEP, Bairbre de Brún:

- Represented the European Parliament at the annual United Nations Climate Change talks in Cancun.
- Acted as an international observer to the Palestinian elections in 2006 and visited Gaza twice as part of a delegation of European Parliamentarians.
- Authored a Parliamentary report evaluating the effects of the Peace II programme in Ireland which was the first Parliamentary report to be published in Irish.
- Authored the Parliament's report on animal transportation to prevent the spread of rabies
- Was instrumental in achieving status for an Ghaeilge as an official language of the European Parliament.
- Hosted an all-Ireland delegation dealing with 'Families Bereaved Through Suicide'.
- Co-hosted with Mary Lou McDonald TD a delegation led by trade unionists and bereaved families focusing on health and safety in the workplace

During her time as MEP, Martina Anderson:

- Has been a spokesperson on the Tobacco Products Directive and campaigned for stricter regulation of the tobacco industry and in particular their targeting of younger people through advertising and products aimed at young people.
- Authored a report on the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy.
- Hosted an International inquiry into Irish Unity in Brussels which considered the role the EU could play in the reunification of Ireland.
- Hosted a wide range of organisations in Brussels including; Older Peoples' delegation; ICTU LGBT group; A Farmer delegation with Martin Ferris TD; Comhaltas Ceoltóiri Eireann and Derry Fleadh Cheoil Committee, Chambers of Commerce and business organisations from across the north; the victims of state collusion and violence, and sporting bodies representing GAA, soccer, rugby.

Martina was also one of the only Irish MEPs to actively oppose the cuts to the EU budget arguing for increased investment in programmes to create jobs, tackle youth unemployment, and to invest in deprived urban and rural communities

1. INTRODUCTION

EU in Ireland's crisis

The economic and social crisis that has engulfed the north and south of Ireland since 2008 was caused by both domestic and European factors. The Irish and British governments and key EU institutions including the European Commission and European Central Bank all share responsibility.

While the north may have been sheltered from the worst excesses of the banking and currency crisis it has not been immune from the fallout as two of the four major banks in the north are southern based.

Austerity imposed by Westminster and actively supported by the European Union has had a significant impact on the local economy and on communities. The northern economy has contracted more than most areas in the Eurozone and Britain since 2008.

Irish people were the victims of bad government in Dublin and London, bad Irish and European banks and bad decisions in Brussels and Frankfurt. Nowhere is this more evident than in the issue of debt.

As the banking crisis unfolded in 2008 the Fianna Fáil-led government acquiesced to pressure from the European Central Bank Governor Jean Claude Trichet to bail out the banks, irrespective of the social and economic cost. The official policy in Dublin and Frankfurt was that no bondholder was to be burnt.

Fianna Fáil and the Green Party protected the bondholders because many of them were part of the infamous golden circle. Bertie

Ahern and Brian Cowen stood by their friends in Anglo Irish Bank.

The blanket banking guarantee of October 2008, the nationalisation of Anglo Irish Bank in 2009, the €30 billion Anglo Irish Bank promissory note and the €30 billion cost of recapitalisation of the Bank of Ireland and Allied Irish Bank all flowed from this.

Despite opposing this policy when in opposition, once in government Fine Gael and Labour continued to implement Fianna Fáil and ECB policy – pouring €17 billion of taxpayers' money into AIB and the Bank of Ireland, saddling future generations with the promissory note debt and extending the blanket banking guarantee, again and again.

The result was spiralling public debt (from 25% of GDP in 2007 to 120% of GDP in 2013) pushing up the cost of government borrowing and forcing the government deficit to rise even further.

The decision by Fianna Fáil and the Green Party to pile banking debt onto the shoulders of the taxpayer paved the way for the humiliating handover of our economic sovereignty to the Troika bailout programme in 2010.

During the 2011 general election Fine Gael and Labour promised to do things differently. Enda Kenny's party promised that not another red cent would go to banks until bondholders started to share the pain. Eamon Gilmore promised that if elected it would be Labour's way not Frankfurt's way.

But once in office these promises were broken.

A similar agenda was pursued by the government in London – cutting the block grant to the Assembly and seeking to impose reductions in social welfare protections.

In addition to advocating domestic austerity the European Union cut its own budget, a decision that was supported by Fine Gael, Labour, the Unionist parties and the British government. The result of this cut has been a significant reduction in much needed financial supports for island of Ireland.

A new direction for the EU

For too long a cosy consensus has existed in Irish politics. The consensus extends from economic and social policy to Ireland's relationship with the European Union.

It is a consensus that looks after the few to the detriment of the many.

Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and Labour are the yes men of Europe. Whatever Brussels and Frankfurt propose they support. Their MEPs are the EU's representatives in Ireland – promoting the agenda of the EU institutions rather than the interests of people in Ireland in the EU.

When the single currency was being created they were warned of the dangers, particularly for smaller and economically weaker member states. The Dublin government ignored these warnings and signed up to a currency union that was fraught with flaws – a disaster waiting to happen.

They have endorsed wholesale the European Commission's right wing social and economic agenda

- stripping back the gains of earlier battles to build a social Europe.

Over the past five years Sinn Féin has stood against this Brussels consensus – we have highlighted the negative impact of the policies of austerity and the erosion of democracy on the lives of people across Ireland. We have opposed cuts to the EU Budget for important strategic sectors such as agriculture, regional development and investment in jobs and growth.

It is time for a new direction, in Ireland and in the EU institutions.

It is time to stand up for Ireland and the interests of all of the people who share this island.

It is time to end the Brussels power grab, to reign in the Commission and return powers to the member states.

It is time to halt the attack on the wages and conditions of working people and to promote a basic threshold of decency for all.

It is time to put in place real supports for those forced out of work by the policies of austerity.

It is time to rebuild our public services and defend our public utilities – to ensure that people get the services they need in a fair and efficient manner.

A bigger and stronger Sinn Féin team of MEPs from across Ireland can raise the volume on these issues and demand a better deal for Ireland.

Ireland's place is in the European Union – but the European Union needs to change. Bringing that change about means electing MEPs that put Ireland first; joining Sinn Féin MEP Martina Anderson to stand up for ordinary people.



2. ENDING THE EUROZONE CRISIS

The Euro crisis is not yet over. While some commentators are saying the worst has passed, for most people, nothing has changed. Indeed while disagreements exist between the European Parliament, Commission and Council on the details of how to resolve the crisis, there is a broad consensus on principle. They all want 'more Europe'. This is code for the further transfer of power from member states to the EU institutions – political power, economic power and fiscal power.

Fiscal federalism will not stabilise the euro. Greater European Commission control of member states budgets will not stabilise the euro. A 'one size fits all' monetary policy was part of the problem - adding a 'one size fits all' fiscal and budgetary policy will only make matters worse.

Sinn Féin is firmly of the view that what is required now is a different approach based on investment, social and economic growth, breaking the link between banking and sovereign debt and greater flexibility for member states to decide the best strategies for recovery.

Economic policy should be decided in Ireland - not in Brussels or London- by politicians elected by and accountable to the Irish people, north and south.

SINN FÉIN MEPs WILL CAMPAIGN FOR:

- An end to the failed policies of austerity that forces the burden of the economic adjustment on low and middle income families.
- A definitive breaking of the link between sovereign and banking debt.
- EU wide banking regulation that forces financial institutions to pay their fair share of the cost of the crisis not just in the future but from the start of the current crisis.
- A new focus on EU wide investment to get Europe's unemployed millions back to work.
- A new EU convention with an explicit mandate to identify competencies to be returned to member states.
- EU support for transfer of fiscal power from London to the Assembly in Belfast.



3. GETTING PEOPLE BACK TO WORK

The EU urgently needs investment in jobs, particularly in the periphery. This can be achieved by combining the resources of member states, including the €6bn in the discretionary portfolio of the National Pension Reserve Fund (now the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund), with an enlarged investment fund in the European Investment Bank (EIB).

Sinn Féin is arguing that the existing funds of the EIB should be supplemented by a once-off investment by EU member states on a proportional basis – this could either be achieved by a transfer from assets currently held by the European Stability Mechanism or by new transfers from governments.

There is also a need for the government in Dublin to increase its access to EIB funds. In the six years since the start of the crisis the State has drawn down on average €600 million per year from the European Investment Bank through a variety of projects. During their first two years in office the amount of EIB funding secured by Fine Gael and Labour actually fell.

When compared to other member states, the failure of successive Irish governments to take advantage of these funds is clear. Portugal, with a population of 10.5 million claimed 5% of the EIB's total loans in 2011 and 2012. During the same period the south of Ireland, with a population of 4.6 million claimed only 1% of the EIB's loans in each year.

In the north, the Executive is prohibited from borrowing directly from the European Investment Bank. EIB funding was accessed for the redevelopment of the University of Ulster campus development works, but there is a need for the Assembly to be able to directly access these funds.

SINN FÉIN MEPs WILL CAMPAIGN FOR:

- Increasing the investment capacity of the EIB to assist private and public sector jobs growth focusing on the range of investment types carried out by the EIB.
- EU support for lifting the borrowing ban on the Assembly to target investment particularly in areas with high levels of unemployment, poverty and social disadvantage.
- Amending the EIB funding ratio for member states with above average unemployment rates to 75:25 with the EIB paying the larger portion.
- A real Youth Guarantee fund of €21bn to tackle the youth unemployment crisis – based on the funding model outlined by the International Labour Organisation and the National Youth Council of Ireland.
- A trebling of the applications from the Irish government to the EIB to assist in funding job creation projects including:
 - Revival of the sugar beet industry and construction of a new bio-refinery plant in the South East with the potential to create 5,000 jobs.
 - Investing in the rollout of next generation broadband throughout the island.
 - The A5/N2 motorway from Derry to Dublin.
 - The Western Arc rail connection (Galway – Mayo – Donegal – Derry – Belfast).
 - Invest in capital infrastructure at Knock Airport.
 - Upgrading our water infrastructure to reduce water leakage.
 - Buying, renovating and building social housing units.
 - Building additional schools and refurbishing existing schools.
 - Building extra Primary Health Care Centres

4. PROTECTING THOSE IN WORK

Since the start of the crisis, the wages and working conditions of low and middle income earners have been hit badly. Across both the public and private sector the majority of workers have seen their real wages decline and their terms and conditions eroded. The gap between low and middle earners on the one hand and high earners on the other has widened.

A recent study by the Nevin Economic Research Institute has shown that the recession has hollowed out the middle of the labour market. Many profitable companies are using the economic crisis to drive down wages and conditions.

Across the EU, labour's share of national income has been in steady decline since the start of the recession. Here, however, the rate of decline has been particularly severe falling from almost 55% in 2009 to almost 45% today.

As a result we are seeing an increasing number of people in low paid jobs and an increase in the number of working families living at risk of poverty. According to the CSO EUSILC survey 25% of the population in the south are now officially deprived. A recent Oxfam report showed that 22% of people in the north are living in poverty.

According to the Institute of Fiscal Studies relative and absolute child poverty rates are set to increase over the next decade to 30.9% and 38.5% respectively in the north. In many EU member states vital social services have been undermined by the EU led liberalisation of services. Sinn Féin is not only opposed to the further liberalisation of public services such as education, health and postal services but will actively campaign for the reversal of this agenda in favour of strong publicly funded and delivered social services.

The unquestioning support of Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and Labour for EU austerity policies has resulted in the south of Ireland having significantly more low wage earners than the EU average. Westminster directed austerity in the north has ensured that 25% of workers in the north do not even make a living wage.

SINN FÉIN MEPs WILL CAMPAIGN FOR:

- Decent wages for decent work and against the low wage culture.
- An end to zero-hours contracts at home and across the EU.
- Legislation on the right to collective bargaining and protecting the right to strike.
- Strengthen the protections for all workers, especially those in low paid sectors or working atypical hours, on fixed term contracts or working part time.
- The introduction of a social progress clause into the EU Treaties in order to ensure that fundamental social rights and collective agreements on pay and conditions take precedence over the freedom of the markets.
- Social Clauses in procurement contracts to ensure a community dividend, particularly in areas of high unemployment, from public and private investment.
- All EU funding programmes to have an explicit and target driven role in promoting equality and social inclusion on grounds including gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity and social class



5. SUPPORTING THOSE OUT OF WORK

The EU jobs crisis was not an accident of nature. Policies pursued in Brussels and supported across the member states created the crisis. In turn, measures introduced by the EU to help those out of work have been tokenistic, punitive, and often poorly implemented.

These initiatives have also been undermined by austerity policies pursued by the Commission, particularly as part of the Troika programmes in Greece, Portugal, Cyprus and Ireland.

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund is a case in point. The purpose of the fund was to provide supports for workers made redundant as a result of the relocation of jobs due to globalisation. It was subsequently expanded to include sectors of workers disproportionately affected by the recession. However, both its scope and its implementation left hundreds of thousands of workers across the EU short-changed. Since 2009 the Fianna Fáil/Green Party and then Fine Gael/Labour governments have made five applications to the fund. The total amount provided to the state was €24.8 million to assist workers from Dell, SR Technics, Waterford Crystal, TalkTalk and the construction sector retrain and increase their employability. No applications have been made by the British government for redundant workers in the north.

To date almost 50% of this funding has been returned to the European Commission because of a failure of both the Fianna Fáil Green Party government and their Fine Gael Labour party successors to properly manage the money.

Not only has government mismanagement resulted in the return of millions of euros back to Brussels, but the money that was spent was used to provide supports that the redundant workers would have had access to anyway, rather than to provide the additional tailored supports as intended by the programme.

While in the first instance the blame for this fiasco in the 26 Counties must rest with the government, the Commission has also failed to adequately monitor this programme.

SINN FÉIN MEPs WILL CAMPAIGN FOR:

- Greater EU supports for people out of work including an expanded and reformed European Globalisation Adjustment Fund.
- A real Youth Guarantee fund of €21bn to tackle the youth unemployment crisis – based on the funding model outlined by the International Labour Organisation and the National Youth Council of Ireland.
- The right for the Assembly to apply to the EGAF for workers affected in the North.
- EU support for social clauses in public and private contracts targeting the unemployed and those recently completed education or training.



6. DEALING WITH THE DEBT

Irish taxpayers have poured an astonishing €65 billion into the failed banks that caused the financial crisis. The most expensive bank bailout in history has cost every man, woman and child in the state €13,956. No other EU or Eurozone country has imposed such a heavy cost on its citizens.

The decision to bailout the banks at any cost has cost us 3 times more than Iceland's bailout, 4 times more than Greece's bailout, 10 times more than the Spanish bailout, 23 times more than the Portuguese bailout and 198 times more than the Italian bailout.

By any measure the people of the 26 counties have shouldered more than their fair share. The banking crisis was as much European as it was Irish.

In July 2012 the European Council promised to break the link between sovereign debt and private banking debt. Yet today we continue to pay the costs of the banking crisis. Fine Gael and Labour's much hyped 2013 Promissory Note deal has foisted a huge portion of this debt onto future generations.

SINN FÉIN MEPs WILL CAMPAIGN FOR:

- The separation of banking debt from sovereign debt.
- The retrospective recapitalisation of AIB and Bank of Ireland.
- A new deal on the promissory note lifting this odious debt from our children and grandchildren.
- A banking supervisory mechanism that makes banks pay their fair share of any future crisis.



7. REFORMING THE EU INSTITUTIONS

Public confidence in EU institutions is at an all-time low. According to Eurobarometer – the EU's official polling body - public trust in the EU institutions has halved since before the crisis.

Peripheral member states are bearing the brunt of unemployment, emigration and poverty. Low and middle income families, SMEs and family farmers are struggling to survive while the very wealthy and large corporations benefit.

EU leaders and EU institutions have demonstrated beyond doubt that they are not capable of resolving the economic and social crisis caused by their policies.

The EU's democratic deficit and calls for institutional reform are not new. However the crisis has exposed a more fundamental political crisis which urgently needs to be addressed.

Successive waves of treaty change from Maastricht to Lisbon have made matters worse not better.

The Commission has too much power. The Council is shrouded in secrecy. Larger member states have disproportionate influence in the Council.

This has to change. The EU needs to be streamlined; it needs to focus on its core functions; its needs less power not more.

SINN FÉIN MEPs WILL CAMPAIGN FOR:

- An EU Convention to engage in and open public debate, with an explicit mandate to identify competencies to be returned to member states as contained in the Laeken Declaration.
- Reducing the power of the Commission by ending its right to propose legislation without being requested to do so by the Council or Parliament.
- Lifting the secrecy surrounding the European Council by holding meetings in public and providing full minutes.
- Increasing the power of smaller member states by reforming the operation of Qualified Majority Voting.
- Increasing the number of MEPs elected from smaller member states.
- Strengthening the ability of individual member state parliaments to influence legislative proposals.
- Reducing the influence of corporate lobbyists in Brussels.
- Maintaining one Commissioner per member state and making that Commissioner accountable to the parliament of that member state through a process of approval by, and regular reporting back to, member state parliaments.



8. A BETTER DEAL FOR RURAL & COASTAL IRELAND

The Common Agricultural Policy is an important protection for farmers. It helps sustain rural communities and promotes jobs and families.

The reformed CAP is a compromise between 28 member states; no member state achieved everything that they wanted for their agriculture sector.

Sinn Féin argued for a well-funded CAP and opposed the cuts proposed by Britain and others in the EU, cuts supported by northern unionists.

Sinn Féin supported the compromise. But we have continued to argue for greater flexibility in terms of its implementation by each member state.

The focus has now shifted on to member states and MEPs have a role in ensuring that the implementation of the new CAP regime is fair and provides security to all our farming communities.

Historically CAP has favoured a small minority of recipients who received the lion's share of the Single Farm Payment without having any greater productivity than those on lower payments.

We also want to see a reform of the inspection regime to ensure that the right balance is struck between ensuring compliance and the levels of administration required of farmers.

We need a better deal for all of rural Ireland. It is vital therefore that implementation of the new CAP regime includes a significant redistribution of funds towards the majority of farmers, many of whom are struggling to maintain a viable income.

Sinn Féin supports the move towards a flat rate of payment for small farming families and wants to see it implemented preferably by 2015.

In terms of Common Fisheries Policy Sinn Féin supported greater regionalisation and local decision making over fishing effort. Sinn Féin wants to see a thriving sustainable fishing industry with greater opportunities for our fishermen in Irish waters.

SINN FÉIN MEPs WILL CAMPAIGN FOR:

- A fairer distribution of agricultural supports to smaller struggling family farms.
- A move to a flat rate of Single Farm Payment with greater support for the disadvantaged areas.
- A properly funded agri-environmental scheme to compensate farmers in disadvantaged and designated areas.
- The Six Counties to be treated as one region in terms of Single Farm Payments.
- Implementation of the Growing for Growth Strategy creating 15,000 new jobs and levering in 1.4 billion in private sector investment.
- Maximum regionalisation under Common Fisheries Policy to bring greater local control over decision making on Irish fishing effort.
- Greater support for our fishermen to assist them with the increasing costs of fishing including a single boat payment in recognition of fishing as a primary producer.



9. PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH

Never before has the case for sustainable economic and ecological development been so clear. Climate change is an established fact. Our environment and biodiversity continue to be eroded by over reliance on fossil fuels, corporate pollution and unsound waste policies.

Despite this the last decade has seen a reduction in the number of environmental initiatives by the EU. There has also been a shift in policy focus from strict targets and limits in EU directives and a greater focus on ‘incentivising’ good corporate behaviour. Successive governments in the south of Ireland have been among the poorest in Europe in implementing EU environmental directives. This has led to an excessively high number of enforcement actions taken by the European Commission. It has also undermined the process of implementation in a manner that would address the concerns of various interest groups.

This is most recently evident on the issue of turf cutting. Sinn Féin supports the Habitats Directive and wants to see it transposed fully. However we also believe that rural dwellers tradition of sustainable turf cutting can be accommodated within the directive. Bad implementation by government has created an unnecessary standoff.

Climate Change is another area where government has failed to act. The European Union is in the process of setting its climate targets for the next two decades. This will shape Europe’s carbon emissions and renewable energy development until 2030.

Sinn Féin strongly believes that the EU must take on its fair share of the global effort to keep temperature rise well below 2°C.

Adopting ambitious, legally binding targets to curb greenhouse gases and stimulate energy efficiency and renewable energy will be essential if the EU is to play its part in combating climate change.

A strong EU 2030 package will ensure we bring a robust and united position to the summit in September 2014.

Sinn Féin has argued that Domestic Climate Change legislation must contain legally binding 5 year carbon budgets, an independent expert authority to advise and make recommendations to governments and a science based target for 2050.

Global environmental change does not respect borders. We have a single interconnected energy market. As an island it makes sense to promote all Ireland environmental protection and energy policy. The island of Ireland, with its exposure to wind and tidal energy, is well placed to utilise natural resources for the benefit of our people. The EU needs to re-establish itself as a global leader in environmental practice and the Irish government and the Assembly must be more proactive in the setting of the policy agenda.

Central to this effort must be a shift in investment strategies in support of technologies that promote sustainable environmental development. Despite the talk of a Green New Deal very little in the way of actually deliver has materialised.

SINN FÉIN MEPs WILL CAMPAIGN FOR:

- Urgent action on Climate change with binding EU targets, including an EU net carbon account for the year 2050, at least 80 per cent lower than the 1990 baseline and an overall target reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 of between 20 to 30%.
- Greater investment in renewable energy, improved regulation of wind farms and increased investment in wave and other energy sources.
- An EU wide ban on Hydraulic Fracturing (fracking).
- A review of the special areas of conservation to ensure full transposition of the Habitats Directive while allowing rural dwellers to continue the tradition of sustainable turf cutting.
- EU support for expanding Ireland's natural environment such as the Liffey Valley Park.
- The withdrawal of local and central government support for the Poolbeg incinerator.



10. PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH

Whilst health is a competence for Member State's there are various initiatives at a European level where Sinn Féin MEPs can work to improve and promote public health and the wellbeing of our citizens.

Every year in Ireland, 7000 people die from tobacco-related diseases. Deaths from lung cancer for Irish women are the 4th highest in the EU and lung cancer is the most common cancer for both sexes.

Measures to reduce the attractiveness of cigarettes and other tobacco products must therefore be prioritised to stop generations of young people and children starting to smoke. Sinn Féin will build upon work done on European legislation such as the Tobacco Products Directive to ensure that this issue continues to be highlighted at a European level.

SINN FÉIN MEPs WILL CAMPAIGN FOR:

- Stronger tobacco control measures to reduce the attractiveness of tobacco products, especially to young people.



11. BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sinn Féin recognises the added value a well-resourced and properly focussed structural funds programme can have in helping Ireland, North and South, make real and sustainable recovery. Sinn Féin has always prioritised Regional Development through membership of the EU Parliament's' Regional Development Committee. Ireland has benefited from structural funds down through the years. This expertise and knowledge should be harnessed fully to ensure the next round of funding is equally beneficial.

The structural funds should represent genuine added value and not be used to substitute for services and infrastructure the government should be providing anyway. We will campaign for structural funds to be focussed on reducing poverty and regional imbalances, building cross-border links to reduce the impact of partition and improving our social and physical infrastructure.

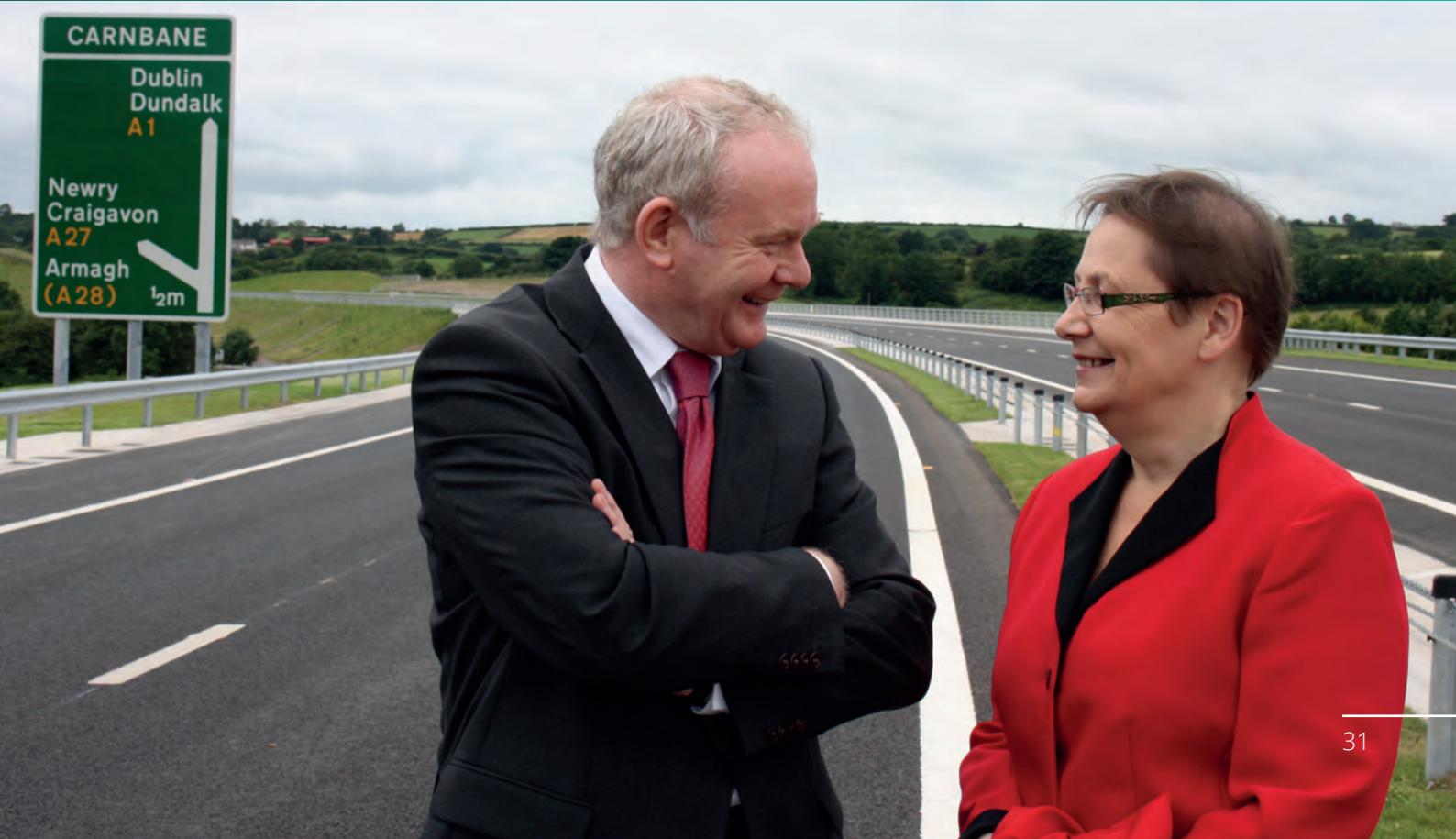
The weakening of the social elements of the EU's Regional Policy has been on-going for more than a decade now. Sinn Féin has opposed this dilution in Brussels, Strasbourg and on the ground at home.

We have vocally opposed the latest dilution through the "macro-economic conditionality" clause. This clause would allow the EU to stop funds like PEACE and the proposed Youth Guarantee in Ireland because of the new austerity rules. This is akin to kicking Ireland or any other country when they are down. The government say they are opposed to macro-economic conditionality but did not raise their voice against it when it mattered.

We have also opposed cuts to Structural Funds and Peace funds.

SINN FÉIN MEPs WILL CAMPAIGN FOR:

- A fair and properly resourced Regional Development Policy based on solidarity between regions.
- A PEACE IV which makes a real difference to peace building and is based on objective need.
- The maximum all-Ireland cooperation on planning in the spending of funds.
- A social and environmental emphasis above competitiveness and other considerations in the design and implementation of Ireland's Operational Programmes and Regional Plans.
- The right of the Assembly to draw down structural funds directly from the EU.
- Maximise the opportunity to drawn down additional EU competitive Funds.



12. PROMOTING IRISH UNITY

The EU has a role to play in peace building and supporting the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. This Agreement provides for a border poll to determine the continued partition or reunification of Ireland. The EU should continue to play a role in supporting the peace process, promoting cross border working and ultimately respecting and supporting any vote for reunification.

Partition fractured the economy of Ireland. There are no advantages for an island nation of 6.4 million people on the edge of Europe having two separate tax regimes, two currencies and legal systems, two public service systems and two separate competing economies.

The social, economic, political and cultural divisions that have become symptoms of partition have caused cross-border divergence that has resulted in almost a century of instability and conflict across the island. Partition has undermined economic development, particularly in border areas.

Harmonising structures across the island is central to creating a fully integrated and healthy economy and public services.

The border hampers trade, undermines workers' rights and restricts economic growth. Many successful businesses face the added cost of cross border trade and barriers to expansion.

Councils along the Border provide back to back services that could be provided in a more efficient and effective manner through cross border working between councils. Economic co-operation and co-ordination of trade, investment and progressive taxation could play a central role in securing a just, fair and healthy economy for the island as a whole. The starting point must be for maximum fiscal powers to be transferred to the North.

We have disconnected public service, programmes and centres of excellence. It has been illustrated that where joint enterprise is applied, such as in health, it makes economic sense.

The Treaties of the European Union oblige it to promote cross-border integration and to help overcome the negative effects of partition in Ireland.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF STEPS WHICH THE EU COULD ADVANCE INCLUDING:

- Encouraging the development of integrated Irish representation on EU issues.
- Providing for the participation of ministers from the northern Executive in the Council of Ministers.
- Providing for the possibility of an 'opt-in' to EU legislation by the Six Counties where the British government has opted-out, in order to ensure that the whole island is operating within the same social and economic framework.
- Developing a single EU Support Framework to ensure that strategic planning can take place on an all-Ireland basis and that the EU can treat Ireland as a single entity for funding purposes.
- Promoting additional draw down of INTERREG funding.
- Giving Cross-Border Corridor Groups a more strategic role in the allocation and distribution of funds.
- Supporting the development of all-Ireland public sector and civil society institutions and contributing to the establishment of cross-border economic development zones.
- Exempting state aid to support Irish integration and reunification from competition regulations
- Systematically analysing the costs of continued partition as part of its contribution to an open, inclusive, informed and respectful debate on the benefits of Irish unity.
- Insisting that the Good Friday Agreement be fully implemented by the British and Irish governments.

SINN FÉIN MEPs WILL CAMPAIGN FOR:

- Adequate funding and political support for the PEACE Programme.
- A stronger all-Ireland dynamic to EU funding.
- Putting equality, social inclusion and sustainable development at the heart of EU funding regulations.
- Additional EU funding for Ireland in order to promote cross-border integration.

13. RECLAIMING IRISH NEUTRALITY

The Lisbon Treaty gave the EU significant new powers to further develop common defence, security and foreign policies. While the economic crisis has slowed down the speed and depth of EU integration in these areas, they none the less continue to represent a serious threat to Irish neutrality and sovereignty.

Sinn Féin believes in positive neutrality. We are opposed to Irish membership in any military alliance or common defence. We are also concerned with the increasing militarisation of the EU and the impact of the EU arms industry in conflict zones across the world.

14. PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Sinn Féin supports the European human rights architecture and the objective of continent-wide upwards harmonisation of protections, because they serve the best interest of the Irish people. We will insist that Ireland upholds these human rights standards at home, and that the EU institutions also live up to their own human rights commitments.

European human rights guarantees are not enough. We need stronger domestic protections in Ireland, starting with full implementation of the outstanding human rights commitments under the Good Friday Agreement.

SINN FÉIN MEPs WILL CAMPAIGN FOR:

- A specific protocol attached to the EU Treaties on Irish neutrality similar to that secured by Denmark.
- An end to Irish participation in the evolving EU common defence and security policies.
- A ban on the export of EU manufactured arms to countries in conflict.
- An end to the linking of EU development aid and security policy.

SINN FÉIN MEPs WILL CAMPAIGN FOR:

- Ireland to fully comply with all European human rights obligations, whether civil or political, under the ECHR or economic and social rights under the European Social Charter.
- Ireland to fully comply with its obligations under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in the domestic implementation of EU law.
- The British government to fully comply with its obligations under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages with respect to the Irish language.
- EU support for Westminster legislating for a robust and enforceable Bill of Rights for the north – including economic, social and cultural rights – as provided for under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement.
- EU support for the Oireachtas legislating for improved constitutional protection of human rights – including in particular economic, social and cultural rights – as provided for under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement.
- EU support for the adoption of an All-Ireland Charter of Rights to harmonise guarantees, as provided for under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement.
- Argue for effective and consistent implementation of the EU guidelines on Human Rights Defenders by the European External Action Services (EEAS) in EU missions around the world
- Argue that human rights are taken into consideration in all policy areas within the EU including International trade agreements.
- Argue that social & environmental impact assessments are carried out on proposals in the developing world that avail of EU funding.

15. PROMOTING IRISH AT HOME AND IN THE EU

Sinn Féin has always argued that the European Union has an important role to play in the promotion of Irish language and culture. The recognition of Irish as an official language of the EU, which Sinn Féin campaigned hard for, was an important achievement.

However the temporary derogation put in place in 2007 had meant that potential of this achievement has not been fully realised.

The derogation is due to end on the 31st of December 2016. However it could be brought to an end sooner and full recognition for Irish could be in place. The ending of this derogation would provide 180 jobs in the EU institutions for Irish language speakers for jobs such as interpreters, translators, lawyer-linguists

SINN FÉIN MEPs WILL CAMPAIGN FOR:

- The Irish Government to apply to the European Council to put an end to the derogation.
- Increased investment by the Irish Government to ensure that we have a skilled workforce of translators, interpreters and lawyer-linguists to supply the increased positions arising from the end of the derogation.
- Maintenance of official recognition and status for Irish in the EU.
- Investment in Gaeltacht communities and educational support to specifically help with the implementation of the 20 Year Irish language strategy.
- Increased investment for culture based projects and Irish language cultural industries aimed at increasing the number of people working through Irish.





ÉIRE CHUN CINN

FORÓGRA SHINN FÉIN UM AN AE 2014

SINN FÉIN, 44 CEARNÓG PHARNELL, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 1.
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1913 - 2013
COMMONS
Fighting for Workers



Gerry Adams TD
Uachtarán Shinn Féin

LITIR Ó GERRY ADAMS TD

Tá an tAontas Eorpach faoi ghéarchéim - is géarchéim gheilleagrach, géarchéim shóisialta agus géarchéim pholaitíuil í. Is iad drochdhearadh, beartais dhona agus ceannaireacht neamhinniúil is cús léi.

Tá toradh na géarchéime seo ag dul i bhfeidhm ar theaghlaigh i ngach ballstát. Tá an difhostaíocht, an eisimirce, fiachas agus an bhochtaineacht le feiceáil i saol laethúil na milliún duine.

Tá na milliún duine difhostaithe mar gheall ar an ngéarchéim gheilleagrach. Tá an bonn á bhaint de thuarastal agus de choinníollacha oibre na milliún duine eile. Go hoifigiúil, tá 26.5 milliún duine difhostaithe ar fud an AE. Is ionann an óg-dhífhostaíocht agus 24%.

Tá an cwlú ina chúis le géarchéim shóisialta. De réir OSCE, tá 120 milliún duine, nó 24% de dhaonra an AE, i mbaol na bochtaineachta nó an eisaimh shóisialta. Tá roinnt mhaith de na daoine sin ag obair ach tá tuarastal á thuilleadh acu nach bhfreastalaíonn ar bhunriachtanais a dteaghlaigh.

Is é an fhreagairt ó institiúidí an AE dó, le tacáiocht ghníomhach ó rialtas sna ballstáit, ná an costas ar an ngéarchéim a shóisialú. Cuireadh riachtanais na mbanc roimh riachtanais na ndaoine.

Tá an déine, is é sin, an costas ar an ngéarchéim gheilleagrach a ghearradh ar na daoine sin is lú airgead, éirithe ar chreideamh na bpolaiteoirí i mBaile Átha Cliath, i Londain agus sa Bhruiséil. Tá sí ar an gcomhdhearcadh beartais a cheanglaíonn Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael agus Páirtí an Lucht Oibre leis an gComisiún Eorpach, leis an gComhairle Eorpach agus leis an mBanc Ceannais Eorpach. An t-aon easaontú atá ag na páirtithe Aontachtacha sa tuaisceart

agus sa rialtas a bhfuil an Páirtí Coimeádach i gceannas air i Londain ná cé ba cheart na bearta déine a ghearadh - an Bhruiséil nó Londain.

Is é an toradh atá air sin ná ionsaí ar chaighdeáin mhaireachtála na dteaghlaigh ísealioncaim agus meánioncaim ar fud na hÉireann; drochláiriú ar na daoine sin nach bhfuil ábalta fostastaíocht a fháil agus atá spleách ar leas sóisialach; agus scamhadh sócmhainní na seirbhísí poiblí agus na bhfónantas poiblí ar a mbraitheann roinnt mhaith dúinn.

Chun cúrsai a dhéanamh níos measa, is mian le scothaícmí polaitíochta ar fud na hEorpa tuilleadh cumhachta a lárrú isteach in institiúidí an AE - maíonn siad gurb é seo an t-aon bhealach leis an ngéarchéim a réiteach.

Is mithid deireadh le beartais theipthe chomhdhearcadh na Bruiséile a iarráidh. Is é toghchán Pharlaimint na hEorpa an deis atá agat cur in iúl do na scothaícmí polaitíochta gur fhulaing tú do sháith.

Ná vótáil ar son páirtithe ar theip orthu san am atá thart an 22 Bealtaine agus an 23 Bealtaine. Vótáil ar son páirtí a bhfuil rogha eile atá soiléir, inchreidte agus radacach sa tir seo agus san AE á tairiscint aige.

Tá Sinn Féin ag seasamh i ngach toghcheantar sa tir. Is mithid tú áite a thabhairt d'Éirinn, vótáil ar son fhoireann láidir uile-Éireann - vótáil ar son Shinn Féin.

10 nGEALLTANAS SHINN FÉIN

Má thoghtar iad, tabharfaidh MEPanna Shinn Féin túis áite do na gealltanais thábhachtacha bheartais seo a leanas:

1

Tuilleadh infheistíochta a aimsiú ón mBanc Eorpach Infheistíochta chun fostáiocht a chruthú i dtuaisceart agus i ndeisceart na hÉireann.

2

Teacht ar bheart ar an bhfiachas leagáide in AIB agus i mBanc na hÉireann agus ar bheart nua ar notaí gealltanais Bhanc-Chorparáid Angla-Éireannach/IBRC.

3

Pá agus coinníollacha na n-oibrithe a chosaint agus tairseach bhunúsach mhacántachta do na hoibrithe uile a chur chun cinn.

4

Dáileadh níos cothroime an Chomhbheartais Talmhaióchta agus tacái imleora i gcomhair ár bpobal feirmeoireachta agus iascaireachta a chinntiú.

5

Aghaidh a thabhairt go práinneach ar an athrú aeráide ag leibhéal an AE agus ag an leibhéal intíre.

6

Cumhactaí a thabhairt ar ais do bhallstáit agus an tionchar atá ag parlaimintí na mballstát ar phróiseas reachtaíochta an AE a mhéadú.

7

Cumhacht an Choi misiúin a laghdú, rud a chuireann deireadh lena chumhacht tionscnaíochta agus a dhéanann é níos follasaí agus níos freagraí do Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus do pharlaimintí na mballstát.

8

Cumhacht na stát beag ag Comhairle na nAirí a mhéadú trí athchóiriú a dhéanamh ar an nós imeachta um an Vótáil Tromlaigh Cháilithe.

9

Neodracht dhearfach na hÉireann a athdhearbhú agus tarraingt as cosaint chomhchoiteann an AE atá ag teacht aníos.

10

Aontú na hÉireann agus tacáiocht ón AE do phobalbreith ar cheist na teorann a chur chun cinn.



Lynn Boylan
Toghcheantair
Átha Cliath



Liadh Ní Riada
Toghcheantair
Theas

Martina Anderson
Toghcheantair
Thuaidh

Matt Carthy
Toghcheantair
Lár-Réigiún Íarthuaisceart



D'argóin siad ar son na nithe seo a leanas ar urlár na parlaiminte:

- Rogha eile atá treoraithe ag infheistíocht ó dhéine an AE agus ciorruithe ar bhuiséad an AE.
- Tuilleadh maoinithe d'fhiontair bheaga agus mheánmhéide (SMEenna) agus le haghaidh taighde agus forbartha.
- Clár Peace IV agus cur i bhfeidhm Interreg V.
- Beart níos fearr d'fheirmeoirí Éireannacha le linn an athchóirithe ar an gComhbheartas Talmhaíochta.
- Tuilleadh dírithe ar an athrú aeráide agus ar an ngá le spriocanna ceanagailteacha maidir le hastaíochtaí.
- Dlúthpháirtíocht idirnáisiúnta le muintir na Palaistíne, na Cordastáine agus Thír na mBascach.
- Tacaíocht mhéadaithe don Ghaeilge sa Bhruiséil agus sa tír seo.
- Rannpháirtíocht leis an tsochaí shibhialta, lena n-áirítear eagraíochtaí aosaithe, míchumais, LGBT agus ban.
- Cearta LGBT a chur chun cinn ar fud an AE agus treochlár in aghaidh na homafóibe a chruthú.
- Tacaíocht d'Aontú na hÉireann.
- Próiseas na síochána agus an gá le hathmhuintearas náisiúnta a chur chun cinn.
- Béim a leagan ar oidhreacht an chlaonpháirtíochais stáit

TEIST SHINN FÉIN I BPARLAIMINT NA HEORPA

In 2009, thogh muintir na Sé Chontae Bairbre de Brún chuig Parlaimint na hEorpa. Tháinig Martina Anderson MLA, iar-Aire Sóisearach in Stormont, isteach ina háit in 2012.

Le cúig bliana anuas, ní amháin go bhfuil Bairbre agus Martina ag iarraidh ionadaíocht a dhéanamh do na daoine a vótáil ar a son, ach do leasanna na hÉireann ar fad freisin.

Le linn a tréimhse mar MEP, rinne Bairbre de Brún na nithe seo a leanas:

- Rinne sí ionadaíocht do Pharlaimint na hEorpa ag cainteanna bliantúla na Náisiún Aontaithe um an Athrú Aeráide i gCancún.
- Ghníomhaigh sí mar bhreathnóir idirnáisiúnta ar thoghchán na Palaistíne in 2006 agus thug sí cuairt ar Gaza dhá uair mar chuid de thoscaireacht Pharlaiminteoirí na hEorpa.
- Bhí sí mar údar ar thuarascáil na Parlaiminte ina ndearnaidh measúnú ar thionchar chlár Peace II in Éirinn a bhí ar an gcéad thuarascáil ón bPharlaimint a foilsíodh i nGaeilge.
- Bhí sí mar údar ar an tuarascáil ón bPharlaimint ar iompar ainmhithe chun an leathadh confaidh a chosc.
- Bhí páirt lárnach aici i stádas mar theanga oifigiúil Pharlaimint na hEorpa a bhaint amach don Ghaeilge.
- Bhí sí ina hóstach do thoscaireacht uile-Éireann a dhéileáil le 'Teaghlaigh ag Fulaingt Caillteanais Trí Fhéinmharú'.
- Bhí sí ina comhóstach i dteannta Mary Lou McDonald TD do thoscaireacht a bhí treoraithe ag ceardchumannaith agus ag teaghlaigh atá ag fulaingt caillteanais a dhíríonn ar shláinte agus sábháilteacht san ionad oibre.

Le linn a tréimhse mar MEP, rinne Martina Anderson na nithe seo a leanas:

- Bhí sí ina hurlabhairí ar an Treoir um Tháirgí Tobac agus chuaigh sí i mbun feachtais ar mhaithe le rialálí níos doichte a dhéanamh ar thionscal an tobac agus go háirithe ar an dóigh a spriocdhíríonn siad ar dhaoine óga trí fhógraíocht agus trí tháirgí atá thírithe ar dhaoine óga.
- Bhí sí mar údar ar thuarascáil ar chur chun feidhme Straitéis Óige an AE.
- Bhí sí ina hóstach d'fhiosrúchán idirnáisiúnta ar Aontú na hÉireann sa Bhruiséil inar breithníodh an ról a d'fhéadfadh an AE a imirt in athaontú na hÉireann.
- Bhí sí ina hóstach do raon leathan eagraíochtaí sa Bhruséil, lena n-áirítear toscaireacht Daoine Breacaosta, grúpa LGBT Chomhdháil na gCeardchumann, toscaireacht Feirmeoirí le Martin Ferris TD, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann agus Coiste Fhleá Cheoil Dhoire, Comhlachais Tráchtála agus eagraíochtaí gnó ar fud an tuaiscirt, iobartaigh an chlaonpháirteachais stáit agus an fhóréigin stáit, agus comhlachtaí spóirt a dhéanann ionadaíocht do CLG, do shacar agus do rugbaí.

Chomh maith leis sin, bhí Martina ar dhuine den líon beag MEPanna Éireannacha a chuaigh go gníomhach in aghaidh na gciorruthe ar bhuiséad an AE agus a d'argón i bhfabhar infheistíocht mhéadaithe i gcláir chun poist a chruthú, dul i ngleic le hóg-dhíhostaíocht, agus infheistiú i bpobail uirbeacha agus tuaithe.

1. RÉAMHRÁ

Ról an AE i ngéar-chéim na hÉireann

Ba iad tosca intíre agus tosca Eorpacha araon ba chús leis an ngéarchéim gheilleagrach agus shóisialta atá ag dul i bhfeidhm ar thuaisceart agus dheisceart na hÉireann ón m bliain 2008 i leith. Is freagrach aisti atá Rialtas na hÉireann, Rialtas na Breataine agus institiúidí tábhachtacha an AE, lena n-áirítear an Coimisiún Eorpach agus an Banc Ceannais Eorpach.

Cé gur cosnaiodh an tuaisceart ar an gcuid is measa den ghéarchéim bhaincéireachta agus airgeadra, ní raibh sé saor ón iarmhaint mar go bhfuil dhá cheann de na ceithre bhanc is mó sa tuaisceart lonnaithe sa deisceart.

Tá tionchar suntasach ar an ngeilleagar áitiúil agus ar phobail ag an déine a gearradh in Westminster agus ar thacaigh an tAontas Eorpach go gníomhach léi. Ba mhó an cúngú a tháinig ar gheilleagar an tuaiscirt ná ar gheilleagar fhormhór na limistéar i Limistéar an Euro agus sa Bhreatain ón m bliain 2008.

D'fhuilaing muintir na hÉireann mar gheall ar dhrochrialtas i mBaile Átha Cliath agus i Londain, ar dhrochbhainc Éireannacha agus Eorpacha agus ar dhroch-chinní sa Bhruiséil agus in Frankfurt. Is soiléire sin i saincheist an fhiachais.

De réir mar a thit an ghéarchéim bhaincéireachta amach in 2008, gheill an Rialtas a raibh Fianna Fáil i gceannas air don bhrú a chuir Jean Claude Trichet, Gobharnóir an Bhainc Cheannais Eorpach, air na bainc a thrarrtháil, beag beann ar an gcostas sóisialta agus geilleagrach. Ba é an beartas oifigiúil i mBaile Átha Cliath agus in Frankfurt ná nach mbeadh drochthionchar aon sealbhóir bannaí.

Chosain Fianna Fáil agus an Comhaontas Glas na sealbhóirí bannaí toisc go raibh roinnt mhaith díobh ina mbaill den chiorcal órga mhnáreach. Rinne

Bertie Ahern agus Brian Cowen tacaíocht lena gcairde sa Bhanc Angla-Éireannach.

An ilrátháiocht bhaincéireachta i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2008, náisiúnú an Bhainc Angla-Éireannaigh in 2009, nóta gealltanais €30 billiún an Bhainc Angla-Éireannaigh agus an costas €30 billiún ar athchaipitliú Bhanc na hÉireann agus Bhanc-Aontas Éireann, tháinig siad go léir as sin.

Cé gur chuir siad in aghaidh an bheartais sin agus iad sa fhreasúra, lean Fine Gael agus Páirtí an Lucht Oibre ar aghaidh ag cur bheartas Fianna Fáil agus an Bhainc Cheannais Eorpach chun feidhme agus iad sa rialtas. Chuir siad €17 billiún d'airgead na gcáiníocóirí isteach i mBanc-Aontas Éireann agus i mBanc na hÉireann, rud a ghearr fiachas an nóta gealltanais ar ghlúine amach anseo agus a leathnáigh an ilrátháiocht bhaincéireachta arís is arís eile.

Ba é an toradh a bhí air sin ná fiachas poiblí a bhí ag ardú (ó 25% den olltáirgeacht intíre in 2007 go 120% den olltáirgeacht intíre in 2013) a mhéadaigh an costas ar iasachtí rialtais agus a d'ardaigh an t-easnamh rialtais tuilleadh fós.

Shocraigh an cinneadh a rinne Fianna Fáil agus an Comhaontas Glas fiachas baincéireachta a leagan ar ghuailí an cháiníocóra an bealach le haghaidh aistriú náireach ár gceannasachta geilleagraí chuig clár tarrthála Troika in 2010.

Le linn olltoighchán 2011, gheall Fine Gael agus Páirtí an Lucht Oibre go ndéanfadh siad nithe ar bhealach éagsúil. Gheall páirtí Enda Kenny nach dtarbhfaí aon airgead eile do na Bainc go dtí go bhfuilaingeodh sealbhóirí bannaí an oiread sin. Gheall Eamon Gilmore go mbeadh Páirtí an Lucht Oibre ceannasach agus nach mbeadh Frankfurt ceannasach dá dtoghfaí é.

A luaithe is a tháinig siad i seilbh oifige, briseadh na gealltanais sin.

Ghabh an rialtas i Londain do chlár oibre cosúil - rinne sé an blocdheontas don Tionól a chiorrú agus d'fhéach sé le laghduithe a ghearradh ar chosaintí leasa shóisiallaigh.

De bhreis ar thacú le déine intíre, chiorraigh an tAontas Eorpach a bhuiséad féin. Is cinneadh é sin ar thacaigh Fine Gael, Páirtí an Lucht Oibre, na páirtithe Aontachtacha agus Rialtas na Breataine leis. Is é an toradh ar an gciorrú sin ná laghdú suntasach ar thacaí airgeadais atá ag teastáil go géar d'oileán na hÉireann.

Treo nua le haghaidh an AE

Tá comhdhearcadh compordach i bpolaitíocht na hÉireann le tréimhse rófhada anuas. Síneann an comhdhearcadh seo ó bheartas geilleagrach agus sóisialta go caidreamh na hÉireann leis an Aontas Eorpach.

Is comhdhearcadh é a thugann cúram don mhionlach agus a dhéanann dochar don tromlach.

Is lútálaithe na hEorpa iad Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael agus Páirtí an Lucht Oibre. Tacafonn siad le cibé rud a mholtar sa Bhruséil agus in Frankfurt. Ionadaithe don Aontas Eorpach in Éirinn is ea a gcuid MEPanna - cuireann siad clár oibre institiúidí an AE chun cinn in ionad leasanna na ndaoine in Éirinn agus san AE.

Nuir a bhí an t-airgeadra aonair á chruthú, thug siad rabhadh faoi na contúirtí, go háirithe do bhallstáit bheaga agus do bhallstáit atá níos laige ó thaobh na heacnamaíochta de. Rinne an rialtas i mBaile Átha Cliath neamhiontas de na rabhaidh sin agus chláraig sé d'aontas airgeadra a bhí lochtach ón tú - ba thubaiste í a thitfeadh amach am éigin.

Thacaigh sé go hiomlán leis an gclár oibre sóisialta agus geilleagrach den eite dheis de chuid an Choimisiúin Eorpach - rud a lagaigh an méid a baine-

adh amach roimhe sin chun an Eoraip shóisialta a fhorbairt.

Le cúig bliana anuas, sheas Sinn Féin in aghaidh chomhdhearcadh na Brúiséile - leagamar béis ar thionchar diúltach na mbeartas déine agus an chreimthe daonlathais ar shaol na ndaoine ar fud na hÉireann. Chuiream ar in aghaidh ciorruithe ar Bhuiséad an AE d'earnálacha straitéiseacha tábhachtacha amhail talmhaíocht, forbairt réigiúnach agus infheistíocht i bpoist agus i bhfás.

Is mithid treo nua a leanúint in Éirinn agus in institiúidí an AE.

Is mithid seasamh ar son na hÉireann agus ar son leasanna na ndaoine go léir atá ina gcónaí ar an oileán seo.

Is mithid deireadh a chur le greim chumhacta na Brúiséile, srian a chur leis an gCoimisiún agus cumhactaí a thabhairt ar ais do na ballstáit.

Is mithid deireadh a chur leis an ionsaí ar phá agus choinníollacha na n-oibrithe agus tairseach bhunúsach mhacántactha a chur chun cinn do chách.

Is mithid tacáí fíora a chur i bhfeidhm dóibh siúd ar chuir na beartais déine as an obair iad.

Is mithid ár seirbhísí poiblí a atógáil arís agus ár bhfóntais phoiblí a chosaint - chun a chinntíú go bhfaigheann daoine na seirbhísí a dteastaíonn uathu ar bhealach cothrom agus éifeachtúil.

Is féidir le foireann níos mó agus níos láidre de MEPanna Shinn Féin ó gach cearn d'Éirinn na saincheisteanna seo a chur in iúl agus beart níos fearr a éileamh d'Éirinn.

Ba cheart d'Éirinn bheith san Aontas Eorpach - ach ní mór don Aontas Eorpach athrú. D'fhonn an t-athrú sin a bhaint amach, ní mór MEPanna a thuiginn túis áite d'Éirinn a roghnú, ag dul le Martina Anderson, MEP de chuid Shinn Féin, chun seasamh ar son an ghnáthdhuiine.



2. DEIREADH A CHUR LE GÉARCHÉIM LIMISTÉAR AN EURO

Níl géarchéim Limistéar an Euro thart go fóill. Cé go bhfuil roinnt tráchtairí ag rá go bhfuil na tosca is measa thart, níor athraigh a dhath d'fhormhór na ndaoine. Go deimhin, cé go bhfuil easaontuithe ann idir Parlaimint na hEorpa, an Coimisiún Eorpach agus an Chomhairle Eorpach faoi na sonraí maidir le conas an ghéarchéim a réiteach, tá comhdhearcadh leathan ann ó thaobh an phrionsabail de. Is mian leo go léir 'an Eoraip níos mó'. Is é an bhrí leis sin ná tuilleadh aistrithe cumhactha ó bhallstáit go hinstitiúidí an AE - cumhacht pholaitiúil, cumhacht gheilleagrach agus cumhacht fhioscach.

Ní dhéanfaidh cónaidhmeacht fhioscach an euro a chobhsú. Ní dhéanfaidh tuilleadh rialaithe ar bhuiséid na mballstát ag an AE an euro a chobhsú. Cuid den fhadhb a bhí i mbeartas airgeadaíochta 'a oireann do chách'. Má chuirtear buiséad fioscach agus buiséadach 'a oireann do chách' leis, déanfar an cás níos measa.

Tá Sinn Féin go láidir den tuairim gurb é atá ag teastáilanois ná cur chuige éagsúil atá buanithe ar fhás infheistíocha, sóisialta agus eacnamaíoch, ar an nasc idir fiachas baincéireachta agus fiachas ceannasach a bhriseadh agus ar thuilleadh solúbthachta do bhallstáit chun na straitéisí is fearr le haghaidh téarnamh a chinneadh.

Ba cheart beartas geilleagrach a bheith cinnte in Éirinn, agus ní sa Bhruiséil ná i Londain, ag polaiteoirí atá tofa ag muintir na hÉireann, sa tuaisceart agus sa deisceart, agus atá freagrach dóibh.

RACHAIDH MEPANNA SHINN FÉIN I MBUN FEACHTAIS AR SON NA NITHE SEO A LEANAS:

- Deireadh leis na beartais theipthe déine a chuireann ualach an choigearaithe gheilleagraighe ar theaghlaigh ísealioncaim agus mheánioncaim.
- Briseadh cinnitheach an naisc idir fiachas ceannasach agus fiachas baincéireachta.
- Rialú baincéireachta ar fud an AE a chuireann iallach ar institiúidí airgeadais a sciar cothrom de chostas na géarchéime a íoc, ní amháin sa todhchaí ach ó thús na géarchéime reatha freisin.
- Díriú nua ar infheistíocht ar fud an AE chun na milliúin duine atá difhostaithe san Eoraip a thabhairt ar ais chun na hoibre.
- Coinbhinsiún nua de chuid an AE a bhfuil an t-údarás aige inniúlachtaí a shainaithint a thabharfar ar ais chuig ballstáit.
- Tacaíocht ón AE d'aistriú na cumhactha fioscaí ó Londain go dtí an Tionól i mBéal Feirste.



3. DAOINE A THABHAIRT AR AIS CHUN NA HOIBRE

Tá infheistíocht i bpoist ag teastáil go géar ón AE, go háirithe san fhóimeall. Is féidir é sin a bhaint amach trí acmhainní na mbailstát, lena n-áirítear na €6bn atá i bpunann lánroghnach an Chúlchiste Náisiúnta Pinsean (Ciste Infheistíochta Straitéisí na hÉireann anois), a chomhcheangal le ciste infheistíochta méadaithe sa Bhanc Eorpach Infheistíochta (EIB).

Tá Sinn Féin ag argóint gur cheart cistí reatha an EIB a bheith forlíonta ag infheistíocht aonuaire arna déanamh ag ballstáit an AE ar bhonn cionmhar - d'fhéadfaí an méid sin a bhaint amach trí aistriú na sócmhainní atá á gcoinneáil faoi láthair ag an Sásra Cobhsaíochta Eorpach nó trí aistrithe nua ó rialtais.

Is gá don rialtas i mBaile Átha Cliath an rochtain atá aige ar chistí an EIB a mhéadú. Sna sé bliana ó thús na géarchéime, tharraing an Stát €600 milliún sa bhliain ar an meán anuas ón mBanc Eorpach Infheistíochta trí roinnt tionscadal. Sa chéad dá bhliain ina raibh siad i seilbh oifige, tháinig laghdú iarbhír ar mhéid an mhaoinithe ón EIB a d'aimsigh Fine Gael agus Páirtí an Lucht Oibre.

I gcomparáid le ballstáit eile, tá sé soiléir gur theip ar rialtais na hÉireann i ndiaidh a chéile leas a bhaint as na cistí seo. D'éiligh an Phortaingéil, arb ionann a daonra agus 10.5 milliún duine, 5% d'iasachtaí iomlána an EIB in 2011 agus in 2012. Le linn na tréimhse sin, níor éiligh deisceart na hÉireann, arb ionann a daonra agus 4.6 milliún, ach 1% d'iasachtaí an EIB sa dá bhliain.

Sa tuaisceart, tá cosc ar an gCoiste Feidhmiúcháin iasachtaí a fháil go díreach ón mBanc Eorpach Infheistíochta. Fuarhas rochtain ar mhaoiniú an EIB le haghaidh athfhorbairt oibreacra forbartha champas Ollscoil Uladh, ach ní mór don Tionól bheith ábalta rochtain ar na cistí seo go díreach.

RACHAIDH MEPANNA SHINN FÉIN I MBUN FEACHTAIS AR SON NA NITHE SEO A LEANAS:

- Cumas infheistíochta an EIB a mhéadú chun cabhrú le fás fostáochta san earnáil phríobháideach agus san earnáil phoiblí trí dhíriú ar raon na gcineálacha infheistíochta a dhéanann an EIB.
- Tacaíocht ón AE do dheireadh a chur leis an gcosc iasachtaíochta ar an Tionól d'fhonn infheistíocht a spriocdhíriú, go háirithe i limistéir ina bhfuil leibhéal arda difhostaíochta, bhochtaineachta agus mhíbhuntáiste shóisialta.
- Cóimheas maoinithe an EIB do bhallstáit ag a bhfuil rátaí difhostaíochta os cionn an mheáin a leasú go 75:25, mar a n-íocann an EIB an chuid is mó.
- Fíorchiste Ráthaíochta Óige is fiú €21bn chun dul i ngleic leis an ngéarchéim difhostaíochta i measc na hóige – bunaithe ar an múnla maoinithe atá leagtha amach ag an Eagraíocht Idirnáisiúnta Saothair agus ag Comhairle Náisiúnta Óige na hÉireann.
- Líon na n-iarratas a dhéanann Rialtas na hÉireann chuit an EIB a mhéadú faoi thrí chun cabhrú le tionscadail um poist a chruthú a mhaoiniú, lena n-áirítear:
 - Tionscal an bhiatais siúcra a athbheochan agus gléasra nua bithscaglainne a thógáil san Oirdheisceart, rud a bhfuil an cumas aige 5,000 post a chruthú.
 - Infheistiú i gcur i bhfeidhm na chéad ghlúine eile den leathanbhandá ar fud an oileáin.
 - Mótarbhealach an A5/N2 ó Dhoire go Baile Átha Cliath.
 - Nasc iarnróid an Stua Thiar (Gaillimh - Maigh Eo - Dún na nGall - Doire - Béal Feirste).
 - Infheistiú i mbonneagar caipítíl ag Aerfort Chnoc Mhuire.
 - Ár mbonneagar uisce a uasghrádú d'fhonn ligean uisce a laghdú.
 - Aonaid titheíochta sóisialta a cheannach, a athchóiriú agus a thógáil.
 - Scoileanna breise a thógáil agus scoileanna atá ann cheana a athchóiriú.
 - Ionaid Chúraim Sláinte Phríomhhlíil sa bhreis a thógáil.

4. DAOINE ATÁ AG OBAIR A CHOSAINT

Ó thús na géarchéime, chuathas i bhfeidhm go mór ar phá agus ar choinníollacha oibre na ndaoine ar ísealioncam agus ar mheánioncam. Ar fud na hearnála poiblí agus na hearnála príobháidí araon, tá meath ar a bhfiorphá agus ar a dtéarmaí agus coinníollacha eispéirthe ag formhór na n-oibrithe. Tháinig leathnú ar an mbearna idir daoine ar ísealioncam agus ar mheánioncam ar thaobh amháin agus daoine ar ardioncam ar an taobh eile.

Léiríodh i staidéar a rinne Institiúid Taighde Eacnamaíoch Nevin le déanaí gur fholmhaigh an cúnú lár an mhargaidh fostáiochta. Tá roinnt mhaith cuideachtaí brabúsacha ag baint úsáid as an ngéarchéim gheilleagrach chun pá agus coinníollacha a bhrú anuas.

Ar fud an AE, tá an sciar den ioncam náisiúnta atá ag an lucht oibre ag meath go seasta ó thús an chúlaithe. Is dian go háirithe atá an ráta meatha anseo, áfach. Thit sé ó bheagnach 55% in 2009 go beagnach 45% sa lá atá inniu ann.

Mar thoradh air sin, tá líon méadaithe daoine i bpoist ar phá íseal agus tá laghdú ar líon na dteaghlaigh i bhfostaíocht atá i mbaol na bochtaineachta. De réir shuirbhé EUSILC ón bPríomh-Oifig Stáitrimh, tá 25% den phobal sa tuaisceart díothach go hoifigiúil. Léiríodh i dtuarascáil ó Oxfam le déanaí go bhfuil 22% de dhaoine sa tuaisceart beo bocht.

De réir na Fondúireachta um Staidéar Fioscach, tá rátaí bochtaineachta coibhneasta leanaí agus dearbh-bhochtaineachta leanaí le méadú sna deich mbliana romhainn go dtí 30.9% agus 38.5% faoi seach.

Bhain an léirscaoileadh seirbhísí atá treoraithe ag an AE an bonn de sheirbhísí sóisialta ríthábhachtacha i roinnt mhaith de bhallstáit an AE. Ní amháin go gcuireann Sinn Féin in aghaidh thuilleadh léirscaoilte na seirbhísí poiblí ar nós seirbhísí oideachais, sláinte agus tairsí, rachaidh sé go gníomhach i mbun feachtais chun an clár oibre sin a aisiompú i bhfabhar seirbhísí sóisialta a mhaoiníonn agus a sholáthraíonn an pobal.

Tá an tacáiocht dhílis a thug Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael agus Páirtí an Lucht Oibre do bheartais déine an AE ina cúis le líon daoine ar phá íseal i ndeisceart na hÉireann atá i bhfad níos mó ná meán an AE. Mar thoradh ar dhéine sa tuaisceart atá treoraithe ag Westminster, ní shaothraíonn 25% d'oibrithe sa tuaisceart íospá maireachtála.

RACHAIDH MEPANNA SHINN FÉIN I MBUN FEACHTAIS AR SON NA NITHE SEO A LEANAS:

- Pá cuibhiúil le haghaidh obair chuibhiúil agus in aghaidh an chultúir ísealpá.
- Deireadh le conarthaí gan uaireanta sa tír seo agus ar fud an AE.
- Reachtaíocht maidir leis an gceart chun cómhargála agus an ceart chun dul ar stailc a chosaint.
- Na cosaintí do na hoibrithe uile a neartú, go háirithe na hoibrithe in earnálacha ar phá íseal nó atá ag obair uaireanta neamhthipiciúla, ar chonarthaí téarma sheasta nó ag obair go páirtaimseartha.
- Clásal um dhul chun cinn sóisialta a thabhairt isteach i gConarthaí an AE chun a chinntiú go bhfuil tosaíocht ag cearta sóisialta bunúsacha agus comhaontuithe comhchoiteanna faoi phá agus choinníollacha ar shaoirse na margáí.
- Clásail shóisialta i gconarthaí soláthair chun díbhinn phobail a chinntiú, go háirithe i limistéir ina bhfuil leibhéal arda difhostaíochta, ó infheistíocht phoiblí agus ó infheistíocht phríobháideach.
- Ról atá soiléir agus spreagtha ag spriocanna ag gach clár maoinithe an AE maidir le comhionannas agus cuimsíú sóisialta a chur chun cinn ar fhoraíse lena n-áirítear inscne, clalonadh gnéasach, eitneachas agus aicme shóisialta.



5. TACÚ LE DAOINE NACH BHFUIL AG OBAIR

Níor thimpiste nádúrtha a bhí sa ghéarchéim fostáiochta san AE. Ba iad na beartais a leanadh sa Bhruiséil agus ar tacaíodh leo ar fud na mBallstát a chruthaigh an ghéarchéim. Ag teacht sna síle air sin, is bréagach agus pionósach atá na bearta a thug an AE isteach chun cabhrú leo siúd atá as obair agus cuireadh na bearta sin chun feidhme go dona i móran cásanna.

Baineadh an bonn ó na tionscnaimh sin freisin mar gheall ar bheartais déine a bhíonn á saothrú ag an gCoimisiún – go háirithe mar chuid de chláir an Troika sa Ghréig, sa Phortaingéil, sa Chipir agus in Éirinn.

Dea-shampla de sin is ea an Ciste Eorpach um Choigeartú don Domhandú. Ba é cuspóir an chiste ná tacaíocht a thabhairt d'oibrithe a fágadh iomarcach mar gheall ar phoist a athlonnaíodh de bharr domhandaithe. Leathnaíodh an ciste ina dhiaidh sin chun earnálacha oibrithe a ndearna an ghéarchéim difear díréireach dóibh a chuimsiú. De bharr raon feidhme agus chur chun feidhme an chiste, áfach, níor baineadh luach amach do na mílte oibrí ar fud an AE. Ón mbliain 2009 ar aghaidh, rinne rialtas Fhianna Fáil/an Chomhaontais Ghlais agus rialtas Fhine Gael/Pháirtí an Lucht Oibre cúig iarratas chuig an gciste. Ba é €24.8 milliún an tsuim iomlán a tugadh don stát, airgead arbh é is aidhm dó cabhrú le hoibrithe ó Dell, ó SR Technics, ó Chriostal Phort Láirge, ó Talk Talk agus ón earnáil tógála athoiliúint a fháil agus cur lena infhostaithe atá siad. Ní dhearla rialtas na Breataine aon iarratais ar son oibrithe iomarcacha sa tuaisceart.

Go dtí seo, tugadh 50% den mhaoiniú ar ais don Aontas Eorpach mar gheall gur theip ar rialtas Fhianna Fáil/an Chomhaontais Ghlais agus ar rialtas Fhine Gael/Pháirtí an Lucht Oibre a tháinig ina dhiaidh an t-airgead sin a bhainistiú mar ba cheart.

Ní hé amhán gur tugadh na milliúin euro ar ais don Bhruiséil de bharr mhíriar an chiste ar thaobh an rialtais, ach caitheadh an t-airgead a úsáideadh chun tacaí a mbeadh fáil ag oibrithe iomarcacha orthu ar aon nós a chur ar fáil, in ionad na dtacaí breise oiriúnaithe a bhí beartaithe faoin gclár.

Cé gur gá an milleán a chur ar an rialtas sa chéad ásc as an bpaiseach sna 26 Chontae, theip ar an gCoimisiún freisin an clár sin a mhonatóiriú go sásúil.

RACHAIDH MEPANNA SHINN FÉIN I MBUN FEACHTAIS AR SON NA NITHE SEO A LEANAS:

- Tuilleadh tacaí ón AE do dhaoine as obair, lena n-áirítear Ciste Eorpach um Choigeartú don Dom-handú atá leathnaithe agus athchóirithe.
- Fíorchiste Ráthaíochta Óige is fiú €21bn chun dul i ngleic leis an ngéarchéim difhostaíochta i measc na hóige – bunaithe ar an múnla maoinithe atá leagtha amach ag an Eagraíocht Idirnáisiúnta Saothair agus ag Comhairle Náisiúnta Óige na hÉireann.
- Ceart a bheith ag an Tionól iarratas a dhéanamh chuig an gCiste Eorpach um Choigeartú don Dom-handú d'oibrithe sa Tuaisceart.
- Tacaíocht ón AE do chlásail shóisialta i gconarthaí poiblí agus príobháideacha lena ndírítear ar dhaoine difhostaithe agus orthu siúd a chuir oideachas nó oiliúint i gcrích le déanaí.



6. DÉILEÁIL LEIS AN BHFIACHAS

Chuir cáiníocóirí na hÉireann €65 billiún – rud ar suim uafásach é – sna bainc theipthesin a chruthaigh an ghéarchéim airgeadais. Chosain an tarrtháil bainc ba chostasaí riamh €13,956 ar gach fear, bean agus leanbh sa stát. Níor fhorchuir aon tir eile san AE ná i Limistéar an Euro costas chomh mór sin ar a saoránaigh.

Bhí an cinneadh chun na bainc a tharrtháil 3 huairé níos daoire orainn ná an tarrtháil san Íosláinn, bhí sé 4 huairé níos daoire ná an tarrtháil sa Ghréig, bhí sé 10 n-uairé níos daoire ná an tarrtháil sa Spáinn, bhí sé 23 uair níos daoire ná an tarrtháil sa Phortaingéil agus bhí sé 198 uair níos daoire ná an tarrtháil san Iodáil.

Cibé bealach a fhéachtar air sin, tá muintir na 26 contae tar éis barraíocht ualaigh a iompar. Bhí an Eoraip chomh freagrach as an ngéarchéim baincéireachta agus a bhí Éire.

I mí lúil 2012, gheall an Chomhairle Eorpach go mbrisfeadh sí an nasc idir fiachas ceannasach agus fiachas príobháideach baincéireachta. Leanaimid, áfach, le híoc as costais na géarchéime baincéireachta sa lá atá inniu ann. Ba é Nótá Gealltanais Fhine Gael/Pháirtí an Lucht Oibre - rud a poioblíodh go fairsing sa bhliain 2013 - a chuir cion ollmhór den fhiachas sin ar ghlúnta atá le teacht.

RACHAIDH MEPANNA SHINN FÉIN I MBUN FEACHTAIS AR SON NA NITHE SEO A LEANAS:

- Fiachas baincéireachta agus fiachas ceannasach a scaradh ó chéile.
- AIB agus Banc na hÉireann a athchaipitliú go cúlghabhálach.
- Teacht ar bheart nua ar an nóta gealltanais sin, rud a bhainfeadh an fiachas uafásach sin ónár leanaí agus ónár gclann clainne.
- Córás maoirseachta baincéireachta lena n-éileofar ar bhainc íoc as cion cothrom d'aon ghéarchéim amach anseo.



7. INSTITIÚIDÍ AN AE A ATHCHÓIRIÚ

Is níos ísle ná riamh atá muinín an phobail as institiúidí an AE. De réir Eurobarometer – comhlacht oifigiúil vótála an AE – tá muinín an phobail as institiúidí an AE leath chomh hard agus a bhí sí roimh an ngéarchéim.

Is ar bhallstáit fhormeallacha go príomha a bhíonn an chuid is troime den difhostaíocht, den eisimirce agus den bhochtaineacht ag titim. Bíonn teaghlaigh ar ísealíoncam agus ar meánioncam, fointair bheaga agus mheánmhéide agus feirmeoírí teaghlaigh ag streachailt le maireachtáil. Ag an am céanna, bíonn ag éirí go geal le corporaidí an-saibhir agus an-mhór.

Thaispeáin ceannairí agus institiúidí an AE go soiléir nach bhfuil siad in ann an ghéarchéim gheilleagrach agus shóisialta a réiteach – géarchéim a tháinig as a gcuid beartas féin.

Ní rudaí nua iad easnamh daonlathach an AE agus éilimh go ndéanfar athchóiriú institiúideach air. Mar sin féin, tháinig géarchéim pholaitiúil níos bunúsaí as an ngéarchéim baincéireachta, rud ar gá dul i ngleic leis mar ábhar práinne.

Cuireadh an cás chun donais orainn go léir mar gheall ar athruithe conartha i ndiaidh a chéile, idir Chonradh Maastricht agus Chonradh Liospóin.

Tá barraíocht cumhachta ag an gCoimisiún. Tá cultúr rúndachta i réim sa Chomhairle. Imríonn na ballstáit mhóra tionchar díréireach ar an gComhairle.

Ní mór é sin a athrú. Is gá an AE a chuichóiriú; is gá dó díriú ar a chroífheidhmeanna; is gá an chumhacht atá aige a laghdú – níor cheart an chumhacht atá aige a mhéadú.

RACHAIDH MEPANNA SHINN FÉIN I MBUN FEACHTAIS AR SON NA NITHE SEO A LEANAS:

- Coinbhinsiún AE chun dul i mbun díospóireacht phoiblí agus díospóireacht phoiblí a oscailt, rud a mbeadh sainchúram follasach aige sainaithint a dhéanamh ar inniúlachtaí ba cheart a thabhairt ar ais do na ballstáit, faoi mar a shonraítear i nDearbhú Laeken.
- Laghdú a dhéanamh ar chumhacht an Choimisiúin trí dheireadh a chur leis an gceart atá aige reachtaíocht a bheartú gan iarratas ón gComhairle ná ón bParlaimint.
- An rúndacht a bhaineann leis an gComhairle Eorpach a bhaint trí chruinnithe poiblí a thionól agus trí lántuairiscí a sholáthar.
- Méadú a dhéanamh ar an gcumhacht atá ag ballstáit bheaga trí oibriú na Vótala Tromlaigh Cháilithe a athchóiriú.
- Méadú a dhéanamh ar líon na MEPanna a thoghtar ó bhallstáit bheaga.
- Neartú a dhéanamh ar an gcumas atá ag parlaimintí na mballstát aonair tionchar a imirt ar thograí reachtaíochta.
- Laghdú a dhéanamh ar an tionchar a imríonn brústocairí corparáideacha sa Bhruiséil.
- Coimisinéir amháin in aghaidh an bhallstáit a choinneáil ar bun agus an Coimisinéir sin a fhágáil cuntasach do pharlaimint an bhallstáit sin trí phróiseas ceada ag parlaimintí na mballstát agus trí thuairisc rialta a thabhairt do na parlaimintí sin.



8. CAITHEAMH NÍOS FEARR LE TUATH AGUS CÓSTA NA hÉIREANN

Tugann an Comhbheartas Talmhaíochta cosaint thábhachtach d'fheirmeoirí. Cabhraíonn sé le pobail tuaithe a chothabháil agus cothaíonn sé poist agus teaghlaigh.

Is comhréiteach idir 28 ballstát é an Comhbheartas Talmhaíochta athchóirithe; níor ghnóthaigh aon bhallstát gach ar mhian leo a ghnóthú dá n-earnáil talmhaíochta.

D'argóin Sinn Féin ar son Comhbheartas Talmhaíochta dea-mhaoinithe agus chuir sí in aghaidh ciorruithe a bheartaigh an Bhreatain agus ballstáit eile san AE, ciorruithe a raibh aontachtaithe an tuaiscirt i bhfách leo.

Thacaigh Sinn Féin leis an gcomhréiteach. Ach leanamar le hargóint ar son tuilleadh solúbthachta maidir le cur chun feidhme an Chomhbheartais i ngach ballstát.

Táthar tar éis an bhéim a chur ar na ballstáit agus tá ról ag MEP Anna maidir lena chinntiú go gcurfear córas nua an Chomhbheartais Talmhaíochta chun feidhme go cóir agus go dtabhar-faith sé slándáil dár bpobail feirmeoireachta go léir.

San am atá thart, thug an Comhbheartas Talmhaíochta tosaíocht do mhionlach beag faighteoirí a fuair an chuid is mó den Aonfocaíocht Feirme gan a dtáirgíúlacht a bheith an oiread sin níos airde ná táirgíúlacht daoine a fuair íocaíochtaí níos íse.

Éilímid freisin go ndéanfar athchóiriú ar an gcóras cigireachta chun a chinntiú go mbainfear an chothromaíocht cheart amach idir comhlíonadh a áirithíú agus an leibhéal riarracháin a cheanglaítear ar fheirmeoirí a fháil.

Is gó caitheamh níos fearr le tuath na hÉireann. Agus córas nua Comhbheartais Talmhaíochta á chur chun feidhme, tá sé thíos agus go n-athdháilfear méid suntasach airgid ar fhormhór na bhfeirmeoirí, a mbíonn cuid mhór díobh ag streachaillt le hioncam inmharthana a choinneáil.

Tacaíonn Sinn Féin leis an mbogadh i dtreo ráta comhréidh íocaíochtaí do theaghlaigh bheaga feirmeoireachta agus b'fhéarr leis é a bheith i bhfeidhm faoin mbliaín 2015.

Ó thaobh an Chomhbheartais lascaigh de, thacaigh Sinn Féin le tuilleadh réigiúnaithe agus le tuilleadh cinnteoireacht áitiúil maidir le cúrsaí iascaireachta. Ba mhaith le Sinn Féin tionscal inbhuanaithe rathúil iascaireachta a fheiceáil, tionscal ina dtugtar tuilleadh deiseanna dár n-iascairí in uiscí na hÉireann.

RACHAIDH MEPANNA SHINN FÉIN I MBUN FEACHTAIS AR SON NA NITHE SEO A LEANAS:

- Dáileadh níos fearr tacaí talmhaíochta d'fheirmeacha beaga teaghlaigh a bhíonn ag streachailt.
- Bogadh i dtreo ráta comhréidh Aoníocaíochta Feirme, rud a thugann tuilleadh tacaíochta do cheantair faoi mhíbhuntáiste.
- Scéim agra-chomhshaoil atá maoinithe i gceart chun feirmeoirí i gceantair shainithe faoi bhuntáiste a chúiteamh.
- Déileáil leis na Sé Chontae mar réigiún amháin de réir Aoníocaíochtaí Feirme.
- An Straitéis 'Fás le haghaidh Fáis' a chur chun feidhme, rud a chruthódh 15,000 post nua agus a ghiarálfadh infheistíocht 1.4 millún ón earnáil phríobháideach.
- Réigiúnú uasta faoin gComhbheartas Talmhaíochta chun tuilleadh rialú áitiúil ar chinnteoireacht a chur ar fáil maidir le cúrsaí iascaireachta na hÉireann.
- Tuilleadh tacaíochta dár n-iascraigí chun cabhrú leo freastal ar na costais mhéadaitheacha a bhaineann le hiascaireacht, lena n-áirítéar aoníocaíocht báid mar aitheantas d'iascaireacht mar phríomhtháirgeoir.



9. AN COMHSHAOL A CHOSAINT AGUS SLÁINTE PHOIBLÍ A CHUR CHUN CINN

Ní raibh an argóint i bhfách le forbairt gheilleagrach agus éiceolaioch chomh soiléir ri-amh. Is fíric sheanbhunaithe é athrú aeráide. Leanann ár róspleáchas ar bhreoslaí iontaise, truailíu corporáideach agus beartais lochtacha dramhaíola le dochar a dhéanamh dár gcomhshaol agus dár mbithéagsúlacht.

Beag beann air sin, tá laghdú tagtha le deich mbliana anuas i líon na dtionscnámh comhshaol a shaothraíonn an AE. Aistríodh béim an bheartais freisin ó spriocanna agus ó theorainneacha diana i dtreoracha an AE chuig tuilleadh béime a chur ar dhea-iompar corporáideach a 'dhreasú'.

I gcás treoracha comhshaoil an AE a chur chun feidhme, tá rialtais i ndiaidh a chéile i ndeisceart na hÉireann i measc na rialtas is measa san Eoraip. Is é an toradh atá air sin ná go bhfuil líon ró-ard gníomhartha forfheidhmithe glactha ag an gCoimisiún Eorpach ina leith. Bhain sé an bonn freisin ón bpróiseas cur chun feidhme ar bhealach a thabharfaidh aghaidh ar na hábhair imní atá ar ghrúpaí sainleasa eile.

Ba é an sampla ba dhéanaí de sin ná an tsaincheist a bhaineann le baint mhóna. Tacaíonn Sinn Féin leis an Treoir maidir le Gnáthóga agus ba mhaith leis í a bheith trasuite ina hiomláine. Creidimid freisin, áfach, gur féidir leis an treoir freastal ar thraigisiún na bainte móna a mhaireann i measc cónaitheoirí tuaithe. Is é an toradh atá ar dhroch-chur chun feidhme ar thaobh an rialtais ná leamhsháinn gan ghá.

Réimse eile inar theip ar an rialtas gníomhú mar ba cheart is ea Athrú Aeráide. Tá an tAontas Eorpach i mbun spriocanna aeráide a leagan síos don fhiche bliain atá le teacht. Imreoidh na spriocanna sin tionchar ar astaíochtaí carbóin agus ar fhorbairt fuinnimh in-athnuaithe na hEorpa go dtí an bliain 2030.

Creideann Sinn Féin go láidir nach mór don AE glacadh le sciar cothrom den iarracht dhomhanda chun ardú teochta a choinneáil go maith faoi bhun 2°C.

Má tá an AE chun ról a imirt maidir le hathrú aeráide a chomhrac, beidh air spriocanna atá uaillmhianach agus ceangailteach le dlí a leagan síos chun srian a chur le gáis cheaptha teasa agus is gá dó éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh agus fuinneamh in-athnuaithe a chur chun cinn.

Cinnteoidh pacáiste láidir AE 2030 go mbeidh seasamh láidir aontaithe againn ag an gcruiinniu mullaigh i mí Mheán Fómhair 2014.

D'áitigh Sinn Féin gur cheart an méid seo a leanas a bheith i reachtaíocht Náisiúnta um Athrú Aeráide: buiséid charbón 5 bliana atá ceangailteach le dlí a leagan síos, sainúdarás neamh-spleách a bhunú chun comhairle a chur ar rialtais agus chun moltaí a chur in iúl dóibh, agus sprioc eolaíochtbhunaithe a shocrú do 2050.

Ní aithníonn athrú domhanda comhshaoil teorainn ar bith. Tá margadh aonair idirnasctha fuinnimh againn. Mar oiléán, tá ciall le cosaint chomhshaoil agus le beartas fuinnimh uile-Éireann a chur chun cinn. Agus é faoi lé fuinneamh gaoithe agus fuinneamh taoide, tá oiléán na hÉireann in ann leas a bhaint as acmhainní nádúrtha chun tairbhe an phobail ar fad. Is gá don AE é féin a athbhunú mar cheannaire domhanda ó thaobh cúrsaí comhshaoil de agus ní mór do rialtas na hÉireann agus don Tionól bheith níos réamhghníomhaí maidir leis an gclár beartais a leagan síos.

Baineann an-tábhacht don iarracht sin le straitéisí infheistíochta a aistriú chun tacú le teicneolaíochtaí a chuireann forbairt inbhuanaithe chomhshaoil chun cinn. Beag beann ar an gcaint faoi Bheart Glas Nua, is beag a baineadh amach ina leith sin.

RACHAIDH MEPANNA SHINN FÉIN I MBUN FEACHTAIS AR SON NA NITHE SEO A LEANAS:

- Go ndéanfar beart práinneach i leith athrú aeráide agus go mbeadh spriocanna ceangailteacha AE ag gabháil leis, lena n-áirítear glanchuntas carbóin AE don bhliain 2050, a bheidh 80 faoin gcéad ar a laghad níos ísle ná bonnlíne na bliana 1990 agus sprioclaghdú foriomlán idir 20% agus 30% in astaíochtaí gáis cheaptha faoin m bliain 2020.
- Tuilleadh infheistíochta i bhfuinneamh in-athnuaithe, rialál níos fearr ar fheirmeacha gaoithe agus infheistíocht mhéadaithe i bhfuinneamh taoide agus i bhfoinsí eile fuinnimh.
- Toirmeasc ar fud an AE ar Scoilteadh Hiodrálach.
- Athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar limistéir speisialta chaomhantais chun lán-trasuíomh na Treorach maidir le Gnáthóga a áirithíú agus chun cead a thabhairt do chónaitheoirí tuaithe ag an am céanna leanúint le traidisiún na bainte móna inbhuanaithe.
- Tacaíocht ón AE do thimpeallacht nádúrtha na hÉireann a leathnú, Páirc Ghleann na Life ina measc.
- Tacaíocht an rialtais áitiúil agus an rialtais láir don loisceoir a bheartaítear a bhunú ar an b Poll Beag a tharraingt siar.



10. SLÁINTE PHOIBLÍ A CHUR CHUN CINN

Cé go bhfuil na Ballstáit freagrach as sláinte ina gcríocha féin, is ann do thionscnaimh éagsúla ar leibhéal na hEorpa inar féidir le MEPanna Shinn Féin obair a dhéanamhchun sláinte phoiblí agus folláine ár saoránach a fheabhsú agus a chur chun cinn.

Faigheann 7000 duine bás in Éirinn gach bliain ó ghalair a bhaineann le tobac. Is ar an 4ú líon is airde san AE atá líon na mbásanna ó ailse scamhóg i measc mhná na hÉireann agus is í ailse scamhóg an cineál ailse is coitianta i measc an dá inscne sa tir seo. Dá bhrí sin, ar mhaithe le daoine óga agus leanáí sa todhchaí a chur ó thobac a chaitheamh, ní mór tosaíocht a thabhairt do bhearta arb é is aidhm dóibh laghdú a dhéanamh ar a tharraingtí atá toitíní agus táirgí eile tobac. Cuirfidh Sinn Féin leis an obair a rinneadh ina leith sin i reachtaíocht na hEorpa, cosúil leis an Treoir maidir le Táirgí Tobac, chun a chinntíú go leanfar le haird a tharraingt ar an tsaincheist sin ar leibhéal na hEorpa.

RACHAIDH MEPANNA SHINN FÉIN I MBUN FEACHTAIS AR SON NA NITHE SEO A LEANAS:

- Bearta níos láidre rialú tobac chun laghdú a dhéanamh ar a tharraingtí atá táirgí tobac, do dhaoine óga go háirithe.



11. FORBAIRT TUAITHE CHOTHROM

Aithníonn Sinn Féin an breisluach a bhaineann le clár cistí struchtúrtha atá spriocdhírithe mar is ceart agus a bhfuil dóthain acmhainní aige maidir le cabhair a thabhairt d'Éirinn, ó Thuaidh agus ó Dheas, fiorthéarnamh inbhuanaithe a bhaint amach. Bíonn Sinn Féin i gcónaí ag tabhairt tús áite d'Fhorbairt Réigiúnach trína bhallraíocht de Choiste Forbartha Réigiúnaí Pharlaimint an AE.

Bhain Éire tairbhe as cistí struchtúrtha san am atá thart. Ba cheart leas iomlán a bhaint as an saineolas agus as an eolas sin chun a chinntíú go mbainfear an tairbhe chéanna as an gcéad bhabhta maoinithe eile.

Ba cheart do na cistí struchtúrtha fíorluach breise a bhaint amach agus níor cheart iad a úsáid chun seirbhísí agus bonneagar ba cheart don rialtas a chur ar fáil a sholáthar. Éileoimid go ndíreofar cistí struchtúrtha ar bhochtaineacht agus ar éagothroime réigiúnach a laghdú, ar naisc thrasteoíránn a thógáil chun tionchar na críochdheighilte a laghdú agus ar ár mbonneagar sóisialta agus fisiciúil a fheabhsú.

Táthar ag lagú na ngnéithe sóisialta de Bheartas Réigiúnach an AE le níos mó ná deich mbliana anuas. Chuir Sinn Féin i gcoinne an lagaithe sin sa Bhruiséil, in Strasbourg agus sa tír seo.

Bhíomar an-ghníomhach maidir le cur in aghaidh an lagaithe is déanaí tríd an gclásal "coinníollacht mhaicreacnamaíoch". Mar gheall ar na rialacha nua déine a bheadh i bhfeidhm dá barr, chuirfeadh an clásal sin ar chumas an AE deireadh a chur le cistí ar nós PEACE agus na Ráthaíochta Óige a bheartaítear in Éirinn. Is ionann é sin agus cic a bhualadh d'Éirinn nó d'aon thír eile agus iad thíos. Deir an rialtas go bhfuil sé in aghaidh coinníollacht mhaicreacnamaíoch, ach níor chuir sé ina coinne nuair a bhí an crú ar an tairne.

Chuireamar i gcoinne laghduithe ar Chistí Struchtúrtha agus ar chistí PEACE freisin.

RACHAIDH MEPANNA SHINN FÉIN I MBUN FEACHTAIS AR SON NA NITHE SEO A LEANAS:

- Beartas Forbartha Réigiúnaí atá cóir, a bhfuil dóthain acmhainní aige agus atá bunaithe ar dhlúthpháirtíocht idir réigiúin.
- Clár PEACE IV a dhéanfaidh fiordhifear do chothú na síochána agus a bheidh bunaithe ar riachtanas oibachtúil.
- Uaschomhoibriú uile-Éireann maidir le caitheamh na gcistí a phleanáil.
- Tosaíocht a thabhairt do chúrsaí sóisialta agus comhshaoil seachas iomaíochas agus cúinsí eile nuair a bhíonn Clár Oibriúcháin agus Pleananna Réigiúnacha na hÉireann á ndearadh agus á gcur chun feidhme.
- Ceart a bheith ag an Tionól cistí struchtúrtha a tharraingt anuas go díreach ón AE.
- An deis a thapú chun Cistí eile iomaíocha AE a tharraingt anuas.



12. AONTÚ NA HÉIREANN A CHUR CHUN CINN

Tá ról le himirt ag an AE maidir le cothú na síochána agus maidir le tacaíocht a thabhairt do chur chun feidhme Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta. Déantar foráil sa Chomhaontú sin do phobalbhreith ar cheist na teorann chun a fháil amach an bhfuiltear i bhfách le críochdheighilt leanúnach nó le hathaontú na hÉireann. Ba cheart don AE leanúint le ról a imirt maidir le tacaíocht a thabhairt don phróiseas síochána, maidir le comhoibriú trasteorann a chur chun cinn agus, ar deireadh, maidir le meas agus tacaíocht a thabhairt d'aon vóta ar athaontú.

Rinne críochdheighilt an-dochar do gheilleagar na hÉireann. Ní bhainfeadh náisiún oiléanda ar imeall na hEorpa ina bhfuil 6.4 milliún duine aon leas as dhá chóras cánach, dhá airgeadra agus dhá chóras dlí, dhá chóras seirbhís poiblí agus dhá gheilleagar ar leith a bhíonn in iomaíocht le chéile a bheith aige.

Is í dibhéisreacht a cruthaíodh de bharr an easaontais shóisialta, gheilleagraigh, pholaitiúil agus chultúrtha a tháinig as críochdheighilt - críochdheighilt atá ina cúis le héagobhsaíocht agus le coinbhleacht ar fud an oiléain le beagnach céad bliain anuas. Bhain críochdheighilt an bonn ó forbairt gheilleagrach, go háirithe i gceantair theorann.

Baineann an-tábhacht le struchtúir ar fud an oiléain a chomhchuibhiú má táthar chun geilleagar agus seirbhísí poiblí atá lán-chomhtháite agus rathúil a chruthú.

Cuireann an teorainn isteach ar thrádáil, baineann sí an bonn ó chearta oibrithe agus cuireann sí srian le fás geilleagrach. Bíonn ar a lán gnólachtaí rathúla íoc as an gcostas breise a bhaineann le trádáil trasteorann. Bíonn bacainní ar leathnú na ngnólachtaí sin freisin.

Is iad seirbhísí comhuaineacha a sholáthraíonn comhairlí atá suite feadh na teorann – seirbhísí a d'fhéadfáí a sholáthar ar bhealach ní ba éifeachtúla agus ní ba éifeachtaí trí chomhoibriú trasteorann idir comhairlí.

D'fhéadfadh comhoibriú geilleagrach agus comhordú trádála, infheistíocha agus cánachais fhorchéimníthigh ról lárnach a imirt i ngeilleagar cóir, cothrom agus rathúil a bhaint amach don oiléan ina ionláine. Is é an pointe tosaigh ina leith sin ná an oiread cumhactaí fioscacha agus is féidir a thabhairt don Tionól sa tuaisceart.

Is dínasctha atá ár seirbhísí poiblí, ár gcláir agus ár n-ionaid sármhaitheasa. Léiríodh go bhfuil ciall gheilleagrach leis i gcásanna ina bhfuil comhfhiontar i bhfeidhm, mar is amhlaidh i gcás na sláinte.

Cuirtear dualgas ar an Aontas Eorpach ina chuid conarthaí comhtháthú trasteorann a chur chun cinn agus cabhrú le tionchar diúltach na críochdheighilte in Éirinn a shárú.

IS ANN DO ROINNT GNÍOMHARTHA A D'FHÉADFADH AN AE A GHLACADH, LENA N-ÁIRÍTEAR:

- Forbairt ionadaíochta comhtháite Éireannaí a spreagadh i gcás shaincheisteanna an AE.
- Foráil a dhéanamh gur féidir le hairí ó Choiste Feidhmiúcháin an tuaiscirt páirt a ghlacadh i gComhairle na nAirí.
- Foráil a dhéanamh gur féidir leis na Sé Chontae 'glacadh le' reachtaíocht an AE i gcásanna inar dhiúltaigh rialtas na Breataine don reachtaíocht sin, ar mhaithe lena chinntíú go mbíonn an t-oileán ar fad ag obair faoin aon chreat sóisialta agus eacnamaíoch.
- Creat Tacaíochta aonair AE a fhorbairt chun a chinntíú gur féidir pleannail straitéiseach a dhéanamh ar bhonn uile-Éireann agus gur féidir leis an AE caitheamh le hÉirinn mar aonán amháin chun críocha maoinithe.
- Tarraigte anuas bhrefise mhaoliniú INTERREG a chur chun cinn.
- Ról níos straitéisí a thabhairt do Ghrúpaí Trastearann maidir le cistí a dháileadh agus a leithdháileadh.
- Tacú le hearnáil phoiblí uile-Éireann agus le hinstiúidí sochaí sibhialta uile-Éireann a fhorbairt agus rannchuidiú a dhéanamh maidir le criosanna forbartha eacnamaíche trastearann a bhunú.
- Cúnamh stáit a úsáidtear chun tacú le comhtháthú agus le hathaontú na hÉireann a dhíolmhú ó rialacháin iomaíochta
- Anailís chórásach a dhéanamh ar na costais a bhaineann le críochdheighilt leanúnach mar chuid den rannchuidiú a dhéanann sí maidir le díospóireacht oscailt, chuimsitheach, eolach agus mheasúil ar na tairbhí a ghabhann le hAontú na hÉireann.
- A éileamh go ndéanfaidh rialtas na Breataine agus rialtas na hÉireann Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta a chur chun feidhme ina ionláine.

RACHAIDH MEPANNA SHINN FÉIN I MBUN FEACHTAIS AR SON NA NITHE SEO A LEANAS:

- Maoliniú leordhóthanach agus tacaíocht pholaitiúil do Chlár PEACE.
- Glacadh le cur chuige níos láidre uile-Éireann i leith maoiniú ón AE.
- Comhionannas, cuimsiú sóisialta agus forbairt inbhuanaithe a chur ag croílár rialacháin mhaoinithe an AE.
- Maoliniú breise ón AE d'Éirinn ar mhaithe le comhtháthú trastearann a chur chun cinn.

13. NEODRACHT NA HÉIREANN A BHAIINT AMACH ARÍS

Tugadh faoi Chonradh Liospóin cumhachtaí suntasacha nua don AE comhbheartais chosanta, slándála agus eachtracha a fhorbairt tuilleadh. Cé gur mhoilligh an ghéarchéim gheilleagrach luas agus doimhneacht chomhtháthú an AE sna réimsí sin, leanann siad le bheith ina mbagairt thromchúiseach do neodracht agus d'ardcheannas na hÉireann.

Creideann Sinn Féin i neodracht dhearfach. Táimid in aghaidh Éire a bheith ina ball d'aon chomhaontas míleata ná d'aon chomhfhórsa cosanta. Tá imní orainn freisin faoin tuilleadh míleataithe a bhíonn á dhéanamh ar an AE agus an tionchar a imríonn tionscal arm an AE i griosanna coinbhleachta ar fud an domhain.

14. CEARTA AN DUINE A CHUR CHUN CINN

Tacaíonn Sinn Féin le haituireacht chearta duine na hEorpa agus le cosaintí a chomhchuiibhiú suas ar fud na hilchríche, toisc go bhfreastalaíonn siad ar an mbealach is fearr ar leas mhuintir na hÉireann. Éileoimid go seasfaidh Éire leis na caighdeáin sin i leith chearta an duine sa tír seo agus go gcomhlíonfaidh institiúidí an AE na gealltanais a thug siad féin i leith chearta an duine freisin.

Ní leor rátháiochtaí chearta duine na hEorpa. Teastaíonn cosaintí níos láidre náisiúnta uainn in Éirinn. Is é an chéad rud atá le déanamh ina leith sin ná na gealltanais sin a tugadh i ndáil le cearta an duine faoi Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta a chur chun feidhme ina n-ionnláine.

RACHAIDH MEPANNA SHINN FÉIN I MBUN FEACHTAIS AR SON NA NITHE SEO A LEANAS:

- Prótacal ar leith a bheith ag gabháil le Conarthaí an AE ar neodracht na hÉireann, cosúil leis an gceann sin atá bainte amach ag an Danmhairg.
- Deireadh a chur le rannpháirtíocht na hÉireann i gcomhbheartais athraitheacha chosanta agus slándála an AE.
- Toirmeasc ar aim a dhéantar san AE a onnmhairíú go tíortha atá i mbun coinbhleachta.
- Deireadh a chur le cúnamh forbartha an AE a nascadh lena bheartas slándála.

RACHAIDH MEPANNA SHINN FÉIN I MBUN FEACHTAIS AR SON NA NITHE SEO A LEANAS:

- Go gcloífidh Éire go hiomlán le gach dualgas a bhaineann le cearta duine na hEorpa atá uirthi, cibé acu is cearta sibhialta nó polaitiúla faoin gCoinbhinsiún Eorpach um Chearta an Duine iad nó is cearta eacnamaíocha nó sóisialta faoi Chairt Shóisialta na hEorpa iad.
- Go gcloífidh Éire go hiomlán leis na dualgais atá uirthi faoi Chairt an AE um Chearta Bunúsacha agus dlí an AE á chur chun feidhme aici sa thír seo.
- Go gcloífidh rialtas na Breataine go hiomlán leis na dualgais atá air i ndáil leis an nGaeilge faoi Chairt na hEorpa um Theangacha Réigiúnacha nó Mionlaigh.
- Tacaíocht ón AE maidir le héileamh ar Pharlaimint Westminster Bille Ceart atá láidir agus infheidhmithe a reachtú don tuaisceart – ina gcuimseofar cearta eacnamaíocha, sóisialta agus cultúrtha – faoi mar a phoráiltear faoi théarmaí Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta.
- Tacaíocht ón AE maidir le héileamh ar an Oireachtas cosaint bhunreachtúil níos fearr a thabhairt do chearta an duine – cearta eacnamaíocha, sóisialta agus cultúrtha go háirithe ina measc – faoi mar a phoráiltear faoi théarmaí Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta.
- Tacaíocht ón AE maidir le Cairt Uile-Éireann um Chearta a ghlacadh chun ráthaíochtaí a chomhchuibhiú, faoi mar a phoráiltear faoi théarmaí Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta.
- A argóint go ndéanfaidh an tSeirbhís Eorpach Gníomhaíochta Eachtraí (EEAS) treoirínté an AE maidir le Cosantóirí Chearta an Duine a chur chun feidhme go héifeachtach agus go comhsheasmhach i misin an AE ar fud an domhain.
- A argóint go gcuirfear cearta an duine san áireamh i ngach réimse beartais san AE, lena n-áireofar comhaontuithe trádála idirnáisiúnta.
- A argóint go ndéanfar measúnacht tionchair shóisialta agus measúnacht tionchair timpeallachta ar thograí sa chuid den domhan atá i mbéal a forbartha a bhaineann leas as maoiniú ón AE.

15. GAEILGE A CHUR CHUN CINN SA TÍR SEO AGUS SAN AE

Bíonn sé á argóint ag Sinn Féin i gcónaí go bhfuil ról tábhachtach le himirt ag an Aontas Eorpach sa Ghaeilge agus i gcultúr Gaelach a chur chun cinn. Éacht tábhachtach a bhí in aithint na Gaeilge mar theanga oifigiúil an AE, rud a raibh Sinn Féin i mbun feachtas dícheallach ar a shon.

Mar sin féin, níor baineadh cumas an éachta sin amach go hiomlán mar thoradh ar an maolú sealadach a cuireadh i bhfeidhm in 2007.

Tá an maolú le críochnú an 31 Nollaig 2016. D'fhéadfáí deireadh a chur leis roimhe sin, áfach, agus d'fhéadfadh aitheantas ionlán don Ghaeilge bheith i bhfeidhm. Dá gcuirfí deireadh leis an maolú seo, sholáthrófaí 180 post in institiúidí an AE do chainteoirí Gaeilge le haghaidh post ar nós ateangairí, aistritheoirí agus dlítheangeolaithe.

RACHAIDH MEPANNA SHINN FÉIN I MBUN FEACHTAIS AR SON NA NITHE SEO A LEANAS:

- Go ndéanfadh Rialtas na hÉireann iarratas chuit ag Comhairle Eorpach chun deireadh a chur leis an maolú.
- Infheistíocht mhéadaithe arna déanamh ag Rialtas na hÉireann chun a chinntiú go bhfuil lucht oibre oilte d'aistritheoirí, d'ateangairí agus de dhlítheangeolaithe againn lena sholáthar do na poist mhéadaithe a thiocfaidh as an deireadh leis an maolú.
- Aitheantas agus stádas oifigiúil na Gaeilge san AE a chaomhnú.
- Infheistíocht i bpobail Ghaeltachta agus tacaíocht oideachais chun cabhrú go sonrach leis an straitéis 20 bliain don Ghaeilge a chur chun feidhme.
- Infheistíocht mhéadaithe do thionscadail bunaithe ar chultúr agus do thionscail chultúrtha Ghaeilge atá thírithe ar líon na ndaoine atá ag obair tríd an nGaeilge a mhéadú.

