

## Legislative Monthly Newsletter

September 2020

### Irish Political Developments



Taoiseach Micheál Martin [addressed](#) the 75<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the UN General Assembly



Government [Green List](#) and travel advice



Updated [list](#) of supports available to SMEs

### Dáil Business

#### Recently discussed and considered Bills

- [Sick Leave and Parental Leave \(Covid-19\) Bill 2020](#)
- [Housing \(Temporary Provisions regarding Short-term lettings\) Bill 2020](#)
- [Investment Limited Partnerships \(Amendment\) Bill 2020](#)
- [Forestry \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Bill 2020](#)

#### Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with Covid-19

Released on 15<sup>th</sup> September, the framework for restrictive measures is a risk management for the next 6-9 months and consists of 5 levels.

The lower levels of the framework will be activated when there is low incidence of the disease, with isolated outbreaks, low community transmission. The higher levels will be used to deal with higher incidences of the disease.

It will be possible for different regions and counties to be at a different level to the national level, depending on the incidence of the virus in that particular region or county.

At all times the priority guiding the plan will be to keep schools open, while keeping people safe and protecting the resilience of our economy and communities.

The **full plan** can be downloaded by clicking [here](#) and the **graphic** of the measures can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

### In other news...

- Chambers Ireland also launched its [Budget 2021 Submission](#) ahead of the Government's publication on 13<sup>th</sup> October.
- Chambers Ireland also launched its Q3 2020 Business Community Survey Report, which can be accessed [here](#).
- The European Investment Bank expects to provide [more than](#) €1 billion to support new Covid-19 and Brexit business financing programmes, climate action and education investment in Ireland in 2020 and work closely with Irish authorities to implement the National Recovery Plan.

### Consultations

#### Chambers Ireland submissions made in August/September

- Public Consultation on Price Review 5 Electricity Networks ([click here](#))
- Submission on Apprenticeship Strategy 2021-2025 ([click here](#))
- Submission to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on Guidance for Remote Working ([click here](#))

#### Upcoming submissions for October/November

- EU Trade and Investment Policy Review ([click here](#))
- Programme of consultation on a Workforce Development and a new funding model for early learning and care and school-age childcare ([click here](#))

Please contact any of the Chambers Ireland team if you wish to discuss any of these consultations.

## Legislative Monthly Newsletter

September 2020

### European Political Developments

 €100 billion **SURE instrument** finalised

 Commission raises **climate ambitions** and proposes 55% cut in emissions by 2030

 The **Energy Charter Treaty** is making good progress through negotiation rounds

 EU and Canada celebrate 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of **CETA** trade agreement

### Brexit

#### EU-UK Brexit Negotiations

The **eighth round** of negotiations took place over the week of 10<sup>th</sup> September. A **statement** from the EU's chief negotiator Michel Barnier highlighted that the EU remains committed to an ambitious future partnership with the UK that would clearly benefit both sides.

In order to maximise the chances of a deal, the EU has shown flexibility to work around the UK's red lines and find solutions that fully respect the UK's sovereignty. In particular with regard to the role of the European Court of Justice, the future legislative autonomy of the UK, and fisheries.

However, on its side, the UK has not engaged in a reciprocal way on fundamental EU principles and interests. Significant differences remain in areas of essential interest for the EU. The UK is refusing to include indispensable guarantees of fair competition in a future agreement, while requesting free access to the EU Single Market.

The UK's chief negotiator David Frost made a similar **statement** in which he made clear that the UK has engaged in discussions in all areas and have consistently made proposals which provide for open and fair competition in a way which is appropriate to a modern FTA between sovereign and autonomous equals.

The ninth round of negotiations kicked off on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> September and are due to last for 4 days.

Issues to be considered include fisheries; UK participation in EU Programmes post-Brexit; trade in services and investment; trade in goods; energy (civil nuclear co-operation); and transport (road & aviation). The full draft agenda for this round of negotiations can be accessed [here](#).

### Trade

#### Ursula von der Leyen makes her first State of the Union address

The European Commission President delivered her first State of the Union address on 16<sup>th</sup> September. 5 key areas that were touched on in her **wide-ranging speech** included climate change; coronavirus; Brexit; technology; and migration.

She proposed ramping up her Commission's 2 main policy priorities – climate change and digital innovation – with more ambitious targets for reducing carbon emissions and tech investments incl. **€8 billion** to develop a new generation of supercomputers.

She also unveiled the Commission's new ambitions to **cut emissions** by up to 55% by 2030 which has been met with varied reaction. The full speech can be read [here](#).

---

#### In other news

- The European Commission has adopted an ambitious **Digital Finance Package** to ensure a competitive and digital-friendly EU financial sector that gives consumers access to innovative financial products and modern payments while ensuring consumer protection and financial stability.
- The Commission has also launched a new, ambitious Action Plan to boost the EU's **Capital Markets Union** (CMU) over the coming years, the EU's top priority is to ensure that Europe recovers from the coronavirus economic crisis.
- The Commission has published a threshold value for marine litter on coastlines, to help clean up Europe's beaches. EU Member States have agreed that a beach will need to have less than 20 litter items for every 100m of coastline to stay under the threshold. More on this can be found [here](#).