



Eat!

Rick Stein's spicy fish recipe pullout

Magazine



Home comforts

Donncha O'Callaghan on why Ireland are so much stronger at the Aviva

Scrum pullout



VASSIL DONEV/EPA



All together now Koreans sing and hold unification flags at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, yesterday. Page 31; Sport, pullout

Cool resorts to test your skiing skills

Weekend



Liam Fay We're wrong to lecture the US

Comment



Hard Brexit 'to cost €18bn'

Report predicts Ireland will be worst hit in EU

Jennifer Bray
Ireland Deputy Political Editor

A hard Brexit could cost the Irish economy €18 billion, result in thousands of job losses and lead to the cost of the trade of goods to the UK rising by more than 30 per cent, an unreleased government report shows.

In the starkest assessment provided to the Irish government to date, the report is understood to warn that the economy will suffer in all future trade scenarios, even after regulatory alignment.

The report, which is expected to influence the country's negotiating position, has been prepared by Copenhagen Economics, one of the top 21 economic

consultancies in the world, and will be distributed to government ministers at a Brexit meeting on Monday.

A source in the Department of Foreign Affairs told *The Times* that ministers are expected to be told that Ireland will be worst affected by Brexit among all the European Union countries, including the UK. The study looked at the potential overall effect of Brexit on the economy under four possible Brexit scenarios: an EEA type scenario, similar to Norway; a customs union type; a free trade agreement scenario; and a no-deal World Trade Organisation (WTO) scenario, regarded as the worst possible option for Ireland.

Under the last scenario, GDP is ex-

pected to be 7 per cent lower by 2030 than would otherwise have been the case, sources said. This equates to about €18 billion, according to one estimate.

Sources added that under a customs union scenario, where there would be some customs regulations and "slight regulatory divergence", GDP would drop by 4.3 per cent by 2030. The same is likely to be true for a foreign trade agreement scenario. The best hope for Ireland is an EEA type scenario, similar to the arrangements the EU has with Norway. Under this plan, GDP would be 2.8 per cent lower by the end of the next decade than if Brexit had not happened.

The report, commissioned by the Department of Business, is understood to

outline how, even with no regulatory divergence between the UK and EU, Irish exports will have higher trade costs. A well-placed source said this could be in the region of 8 per cent. Under the worst-case scenario, trade costs could increase by more than 30 per cent.

The report estimates that if trade reverts to WTO rules about 12,400 jobs would be lost in the agri-food sector, more than 6,000 jobs would be lost in construction and more than 1,000 in retail and air transport, said a source who has seen the document and who emphasised that those jobs are expected to be reallocated to other sectors.

The warnings come as Irish officials

Sex, drugs and start-ups Silicon Valley's dirty secret

Magazine



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Ireland news

TODAY'S EDITION

Adams: I regret Troubles deaths

Gerry Adams, who stands down as Sinn Féin president today, has said that he does not care how history will judge him. He regretted that anyone was killed during the Troubles, particularly by the IRA. **Page 4**

'Cocaine' lawyer on high pay list

Aonghus McCarthy, the lawyer caught with cocaine in his wallet at Mountjoy prison, is one of the best-paid criminal legal aid solicitors in the country, according to figures from the justice department. **Page 5**

Safety levels at MMA criticised

Shane Ross, the sports minister, has accused mixed martial arts organisers in Ireland of "deliberately dragging their feet" on establishing safety standards after the death of a fighter in 2016. **Page 7**

COMMENT

Broadcasters are convinced that they must present news in the style of entertainment

SARAH CAREY, PAGE 22

Sisi sends in tanks to Sinai

President Sisi has deployed the largest army in Africa against jihadists in North Sinai and the Nile delta, launching Egypt's biggest counter-terrorism operation weeks before he seeks re-election. **Page 30**

Drumm denies fraud allegation

David Drumm, the former Anglo Irish Bank chief executive, has denied arranging dishonest or fraudulent transfers to boost the lender's books in the months before it went bust, a court was told. **Page 37**

Grobler set for Munster debut

Gerbrandt Grobler, the Munster player who has served a two-year ban for a doping offence, is poised to make his first-team debut off the bench against Zebre this evening at Thomond Park. **Page 48**

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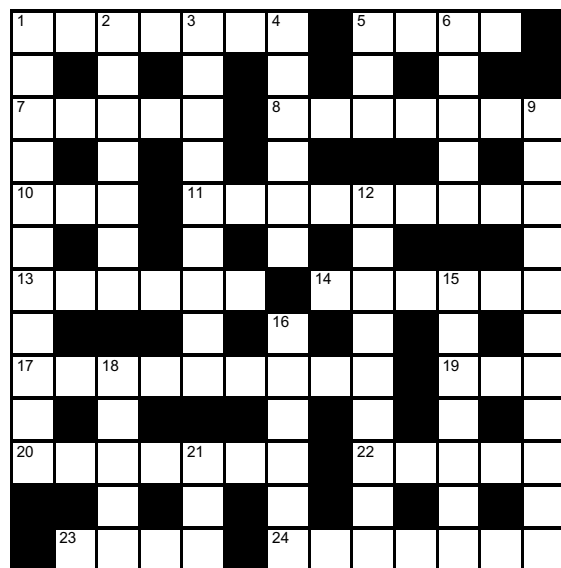
SPORT 48 & PULLOUT

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O Tempora! Crossword CXXIII by Lanifica

A weekly crossword for the classically minded



Clues, which may be straight or mildly cryptic, always lead to answers in Latin

Across

- 1 Primary location of Caecilius, Epicurus and all who tend flowerbeds (2,5)
 5 Nosco, non stulta sum (4)
 7 All on your own, you put in place (5)
 8 Highly, loftily (recordare angelos dicentes pastoribus) (7)
 10 This affair is in dire straits (3)
 11 Ubi pastores Vergilianii cantant (2,7)
 13 Traveller, wayfarer (6)
 14 Scattered, distracted or delayed men (nom. pl.) (6)
 17 More sharply, more biting (comp. adv.) (9)
 19 One at the same time as Ms Stubbs (3)
 20 She healed and made better, curavit (7)
 22 It surges or swells (5)
 23 Mine, my man (4)
 24 Armed men (dat.), eg non erat aequum concurrere nudas, Ovid Ars Am. 3.5 (7)

Down

- 1 We ordered and commanded (11)
 2 Femina honorata et recta (7)
 3 Loca rustica incolit, ut agricola agros incolit (9)
 4 Single rodent burdens and overwhelms (6)
 5 In this way, eg ___ transit gloria mundi (3)
 6 That one, it (5)
 9 People taking your breath away, literally; interficientes, necantes (11)
 12 Of anyone or anything (gen. sing. pron. all genders) (9)
 15 It overflows, eg ripis superat mi atque ___ pectus laetitia, Plautus Stich. 279 (7)
 16 Egyptian rattles, eg Isi...per tua precor, Ovid Am. 2.13.11 (6)
 18 In ripis et liliis sedentes coaxamus (5)
 21 You want power (3)

Last Saturday's O Tempora! solution is on page 15 of Weekend

Court confirms asylum seeker work ban is unconstitutional

Catherine Sanz Ireland Reporter

The absolute ban on asylum seekers working in Ireland is unconstitutional, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday.

The government's solution to the judgment, which was expected after a ruling last May, has been criticised by politicians, activists and industry chiefs because it excludes certain employment areas such as hospitality, transport, retail, and childcare. Jobs sought by asylum seekers must also pay a minimum of €30,000 per year and normal work permit fees of up to €1,000 would not be waived by the government.

The ruling stemmed from a case brought by a Rohingya man who spent eight years in direct provision before gaining refugee status in 2016. He said being denied access to employment caused him to be depressed.

Last May, the Supreme Court found that "work is connected to the dignity and freedom of the individual" and is something that the constitution seeks to promote.

It concluded that a right to work was a part of the human personality that

cannot be withheld absolutely from non-citizens.

The government was effectively put on notice that the court would declare the absolute ban to be unconstitutional and it should prepare to allow asylum seekers the right to work. It announced last month that it intended to opt into an EU directive but has not specified the extent of labour market access asylum seekers would be afforded.

In the meantime, it proposed a default position under the terms of the Employment Permits Act 2003.

Charlie Flanagan, the justice minister, said an implementation group will determine the "appropriate sectors" that asylum seekers can seek work in under the EU directive, expected to be in force in June. "Factors taken into account will include the skills profile of the current qualifying cohort and any labour market gaps," he said.

Protests against the restrictions were held around the country on Thursday. Much of the criticism directed against the government yesterday concerned its failure to implement legislation to broaden the criteria of the employment

permit. Nick Henderson, chief executive of the Irish Refugee Council, said the government did not have to narrow access to the labour sector and most EU states had more lenient employment options. "Restricting the right to particular professions is also optional. In our view it is unnecessary and will undermine the essence of the right," he added.

Fiona O'Loughlin, Fianna Fáil spokeswoman on immigration, said the interim measures proposed were unsatisfactory. She said it was disappointing that the government did not act on the time the Supreme Court gave it to devise a more appropriate solution.

"The provisions are clearly designed to prevent asylum seekers from working, especially when you consider that they currently have a meagre weekly allowance of €21.60," she added.

The permit will restrict access to low-level culinary jobs. Adrian Cummins, chief of the Restaurants Association of Ireland, said every effort needed to be made to allow asylum seekers to gain employment. "The Irish restaurant sector currently needs 5,000 chefs per year and is at crisis point," he added.

Colgan has 'case to answer' over Gate Theatre claims

Aaron Rogan Senior Ireland Reporter

The board of the Gate Theatre in Dublin has said that Michael Colgan has "a case to answer" after 56 people came forward with "credible and consistent" allegations of mistreatment while he was the artistic director.

Details of a review by Gaye Cunningham, a workplace relations expert, were published yesterday after present and former employees, board members and freelancers came forward to complain of dignity at work issues, abuse of power and inappropriate behaviour relating to Mr Colgan. It made 14 recommendations, and suggested governance and policy changes to ensure that people felt comfortable coming forward with any workplace issues.

The board last night apologised to those who experienced the behaviours described. Ms Cunningham said that many of the people who contacted her felt they had "nowhere to go".

"We recognise that a culture existed whereby too much power was vested in one individual and people felt unable to speak out and we accept that the board had an onus to be more aware of the culture prevailing over time," Peter

Crowley, chairman of the board, said. "From the time these allegations emerged, we saw it as our responsibility to respond as sensitively, professionally and proactively as possible."

Mr Crowley said that Ms Cunningham would continue to advise the Gate. The board will release the full review after taking legal advice. "The board is determined to use the outcomes of the review as a catalyst for positive change and will see through this programme of change," he said. "I want to reassure the people who came forward that their voices have been heard and that their participation will lead to real change in how the Gate operates."

Selina Cartmell, the current artistic director, commended the bravery of those who contributed to the review.

Mr Colgan's behaviour during his 33 years at the Gate has been the subject of a number of allegations of aggressive and inappropriate behaviour by women who worked there. In November he issued an apology in the *Sunday Independent* in which he said that he was "deeply distressed" that there had been moments in which "through misjudged behaviour I caused upset to some of my co-workers".

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Hard Brexit warning

are on high alert for a no-deal Brexit after comments yesterday by Michel Barnier, the EU's chief Brexit negotiator. He said that an agreement on a transition period to smooth Britain's exit from the EU was "not a given" because of outstanding disagreements between the EU and the UK.

Mr Barnier also warned that checks on the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic will be "unavoidable" under Theresa May's Brexit plans for the UK to leave the single market and customs union. He confirmed that Brussels is drawing up a legal definition of the regulatory alignment that must continue between Northern Ireland and the EU in order to avoid the creation of a hard border. "We focus on solutions to avoid [a] hard border... any

solution must be precise, clear and unambiguous," Mr Barnier said. "We are waiting for such a solution."

London had so far provided no proposals for the kind of technological fix that could get round the issue, he told a press conference in Brussels.

Brendan Howlin, leader of the Labour Party, said Mr Barnier had "confirmed our worst fears" by stating that a UK decision to leave the single market and customs union "would make a hard border unavoidable". He added: "The taoiseach must now respond to the latest developments, which undermine his comments before Christmas that the commitment given by the UK was 'politically bullet-proofed' and was rock solid and cast iron."

It comes after a week of confusion over what exactly the UK wants in terms of its relationship with the EU. Mr Barnier said yesterday that he had

Jury is taken to home of rape suspect

Lesley Anne McKeown

A jury in the rape trial of two Irish rugby players has visited the scene of the alleged crime.

The jurors travelled to Oakleigh Park in Belfast, the home of Paddy Jackson, one of the defendants. Judge Patricia Smyth, who is presiding over the case, also attended.

Mr Jackson, 26, and his Ulster and Ireland team-mate Stuart Olding, 24, from Ardenlee Street, deny raping a woman at the property in June 2016. Mr Jackson denies a further charge of sexual assault. The trial has previously heard that the alleged attack happened at a party in the house following a night out at a Belfast club.

Two other men have also been returned for trial in connection with the same incident.

Blane McIlroy, 26, from Royal Lodge Road, Ballydollahgan, Belfast, faces one charge of exposure. Rory Harrison, 25, from Manse Road, Belfast, is charged with perverting the course of justice and withholding information. Both men deny the charges.

warned David Davis, his British counterpart, that "the moment has come to take decisions". The UK had been expected to sketch some details at a meeting yesterday but Mr Barnier said the British side cancelled due to a scheduling conflict. He did not elaborate.

Without a clear understanding of what kind of post-Brexit relationship the UK wants, EU leaders say they might be forced to reach arrangements similar to those made with other non-members and not the special agreement that London wants.

Theresa May's government has been adamant that the UK will be leaving the customs union, creating further fears in Ireland of a hard Brexit.

The *Times* disclosed this week that government departments have stepped up contingency planning, submitting detailed proposals to the Department of Foreign Affairs.