

HOW TO PAY FOR YOUR HOME RENOVATION

Joanne Hunt
Money Matters



“I have noticed a steady uptick in a particular type of message from friends working in tech: ‘I think it is time to move on’”

Liz Carolan
Opinion & Analysis



‘IRELAND’S MOST HAUNTED HOUSE’ PADDY McKILLEN JNR SEEKS €4M FOR LOFTUS HALL

Commercial Property

Government fears EU response to US tariffs could hit tech sector

EU preparing range of responses to tariffs signalled from White House

Trump’s ‘Liberation Day’ tariffs are expected to take immediate effect

PAT LEAHY, KEITH DUGGAN, JACK POWER and CLIFF TAYLOR

As the European Union braces for the announcement of tariffs by the Trump administration today, fears are growing in the Irish Government about possible EU retaliation against US tech companies based in Ireland.

The European Commission, which manages trade policy for the bloc, is understood to be preparing a range of possible responses to the US tariffs, including measures that target US tech firms and banks.

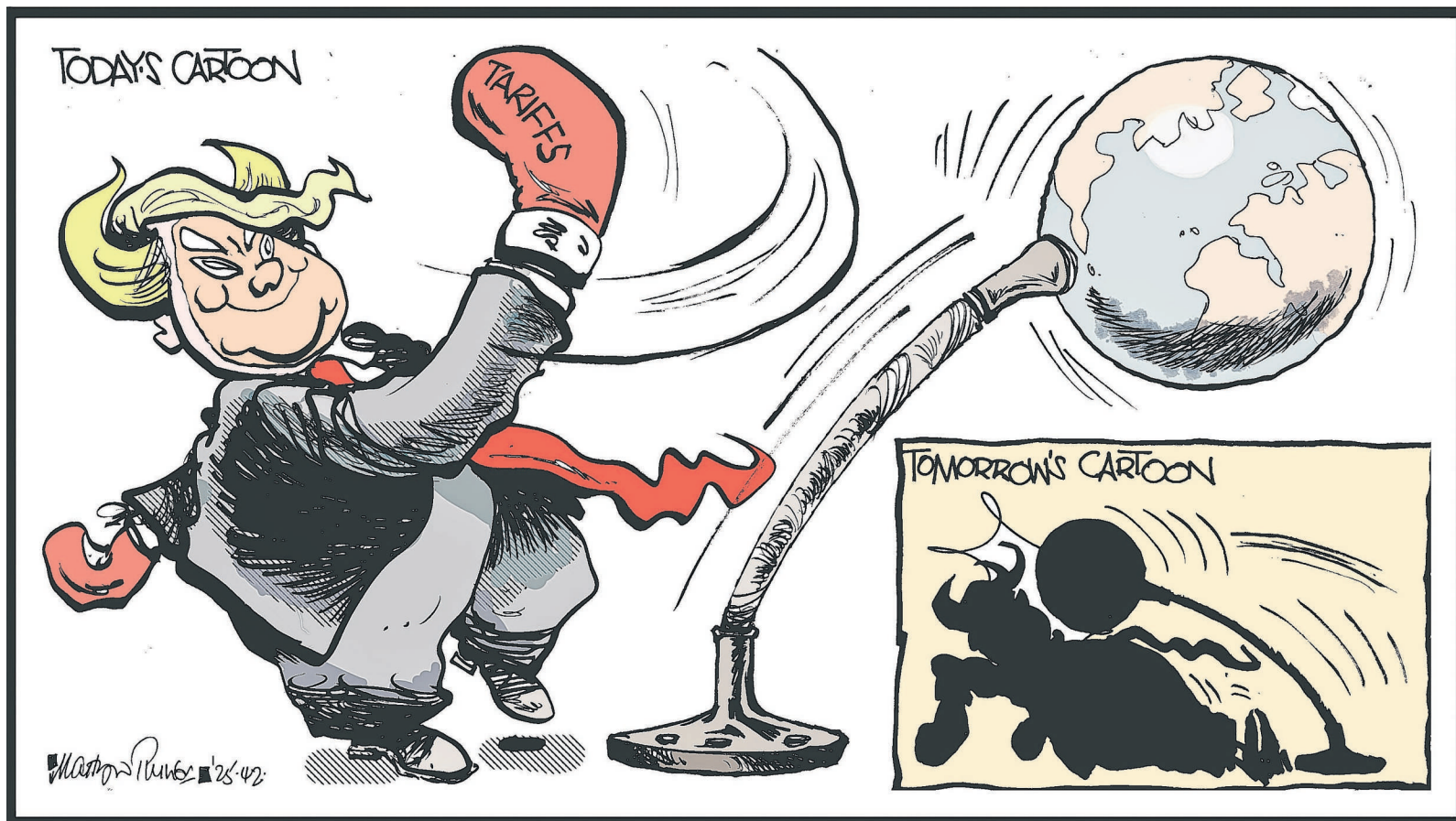
Senior Government sources acknowledge that such EU measures would cause difficulties for Ireland, home to many of the US tech companies’ European headquarters, and where they pay tax on much of their EU business.

National interests

The Government is understood to have pressed its concerns in Brussels, though sources said all EU countries are lobbying the commission to take their national interests into account when framing the bloc’s response to the tariffs.

“Our view has always been: ‘don’t do things that are going to hurt us,’” a Government spokesman said about Dublin’s representations to the commission.

US president Donald Trump



is to proceed with his proclaimed “Liberation Day” by announcing sweeping tariffs that will take immediate effect.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters yesterday that Mr Trump was spending the day with his economic team fine-tuning the announcement. While she did not offer any specifics, she anticipated the measures would take effect instantly.

Closely guarded secret

The scope and severity of the tariffs have been a closely guarded secret, which has led to lurching market prices and widespread foreboding among US trading partners, including Ireland.

The announcement is scheduled to take place in the Rose Garden of the White House at 4pm EST, or 9pm Irish time, today.

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said the EU “holds a lot of cards” in any trade war. The expectation is that the commission will not announce any immediate retaliation, but will signal potential future actions and call for negotiations with the US.

The commission is understood to be finalising plans to slap tariffs on more than €20 billion worth of US products and goods, such as soybeans, cosmetics, bourbon, motor boats and Harley Davidson motorbikes, in

response to earlier US tariffs on steel and aluminium coming from the EU.

That package of tariffs may be followed by another, in an effort to bring the US to the negotiating table, one commission source said.

Lobbying

Ireland and other states, including France, have been lobbying against tariffs on imports of US bourbon for fear exports of Irish whiskey and French wine and champagne will be hit in retaliation, as Mr Trump has signalled the US would do.

The Government anticipates blanket tariffs of about 20 per cent on Irish exports to the US. Tariffs at this level would be a blow to exporters in the food,

drink and pharma sectors in particular and, if maintained, would have a significant impact on the wider economy.

Further specific tariffs against pharmaceuticals – by far Ireland’s biggest export to the US – are also expected, but may come at a later date.

A string of economic studies have shown that Ireland is the EU state most exposed in the event of such a trade war.

A particular concern in Dublin is that the EU could decide to hit the activities of big US tech companies operating in the US.

The commission has wide powers under the so-called anti-coercion instrument to take far-reaching measures against these companies.

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- Irish dairy sector urges EU to avoid dragging sector into US trade war
- Trump’s tariffs: all you need to know – Cliff Taylor



Ceann Comhairle confidence vote comfortably passes

Process of setting up delayed Oireachtas committees set to proceed after motion

CORMAC McQUINN and MARIE O’HALLORAN

The process of setting up delayed Oireachtas committees is set to proceed amid signs the long-running row over speaking rights may simmer down in the wake of yesterday’s confidence motion in Ceann Comhairle Verona Murphy.

The Opposition tabled an unprecedented motion of no confidence in Ms Murphy over her handling of Dáil proceedings that saw the Government push through changes to Dáil speaking rules last week.

A Government counter motion of confidence in Ms Murphy was comfortably passed by 96 votes to 71.

Under the changes to the speaking rules, Coalition backbenchers and Independent TDs led in Government formation talks by North Tipperary Independent Michael Lowry will have opportunities to pose questions to the Taoiseach and Tánaiste.

Potential flashpoint

The first such “Other Member’s Questions” session will take place today and is a potential flashpoint amid the Opposition’s continuing objection to the new speaking rights.

When contacted last night, none of the main Opposition parties indicated they would seek to disrupt the session.

Sinn Féin and Labour have said they will continue to refuse

to participate in so-called Dáil pairings that enable Ministers to be absent while on official business as a result of the speaking rights row.

Opposition parties have expressed their eagerness to see the establishment of committees, though the potential for a row over this process remains amid claim and counterclaim over who is to blame for the delay.

Committees, comprising TDs and senators, advise the



A counter motion of confidence in Verona Murphy passed 96-71

Oireachtas on a range of specific areas, scrutinise Government expenditure and debate proposed legislation.

Labour Party TD Ged Nash said his party is “anxious” to get the committees “up and running”.

Social Democrats acting leader Cian O’Callaghan argued in the Dáil that the delay in setting up committees is “completely on the Government’s side”, while Fine Gael Minister Peter Burke contended it was the “Opposition’s fault”.

→ Trump’s tariffs wreck the Dáil’s rip-roaring row: Miriam Lord, page 2

Just one ‘serious offer’ to mother-and-baby survivors

ARTHUR BEESLEY
Current Affairs Editor

Only one religious order involved in mother-and-baby homes has made a “serious offer” of cash to pay redress to survivors, the Government has been told after years of talks.

Government negotiator Sheila Nunan has submitted a final report to Minister for Equality Norma Foley setting out conclusions from talks with seven Catholic bodies and the Church of Ireland.

A previous offer of a financial contribution from the Sisters of Bon Secours still stands, it is understood.

However, people briefed on the report and the stance of other church bodies said they suggested little or nothing by way of firm cash offers. Although one order suggested it might be open to transferring a school property to the State, the Government had asked for money. Whether other orders offered property is unclear.

Ms Nunan had engagements with the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul; Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary; Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; the Sisters of Mercy; the Sisters of St John of God; and the Legion of Mary, a lay organisation.

In connection with Protestant-run homes, she also spoke to the Church of Ireland. “We’re not making an offer,” said a Church of Ireland spokesman, adding that it continues to offer pastoral care to former residents.

Commission of investigation The Church of Ireland position is that it “did not found, own or manage any of the homes” that featured in the October 2020 report of the commission of investigation into the affair.

Still, critics have argued Church of Ireland clergy were involved in managing homes, fundraising and arranging places for unmarried pregnant

women and teenagers.

Ms Nunan took on the negotiation in May 2023 at a rate of €377 per day and worked with instructions to recommend a “best and final offer” from religious orders within six months. She was hired by former minister Roderic O’Gorman, now Green leader, after he failed to land a deal with religious institutions for a financial contribution to the €800 million State redress scheme for survivors.

Accountants EY carried out a financial assessment for Ms Nunan of each order’s resources.

In an email yesterday, Ms Foley told survivors she had “just received” the report. “Be

assured, I am committed to making the necessary arrangements so that you will receive this report prior to publication,” she said.

Ms Nunan separately told the orders her work was complete, saying her email would no longer function and any further dealings would be with Ms Foley’s department.

The end of talks comes 10 years after the commission was established in February 2015 to examine harm caused to tens of thousands of women and children at 14 mother-and-baby homes and four county homes. The inquiry covered the decades between 1922 and 1998.

Weather

Today will be another fine day, staying dry with widespread sunshine. Highs of 11-17 degrees, amid light winds.

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Home News

Crime: The Dublin home of James ‘Mago’ Gately, a member of the Hutch organised crime group, has been seized by the Criminal Assets Bureau (Cab): page 4

Politics: A number of women who protested outside Leinster House were strip searched, the Dáil has heard: page 2

World News



Taiwan: China has launched military exercises around Taiwan, describing them as a warning to ‘separatist forces’: page 6

Business + Commercial Property

Property: Ireland is facing an office block supply ‘shock’ over the next 12-18 months due to construction stalling, according to Gresham House Ireland: page 13

Tourism: There are fears new UK digital immigration system could disrupt the Irish sector: page 13

Sports Wednesday

Soccer: Arsenal beat Fulham at the Emirates last night to keep up some semblance of pressure on Premier League leaders Liverpool: page 19

Rugby: Munster attack coach Mike Prendergast is relishing pitting his wits against Ronan O’Gara and La Rochelle: page 21

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